

sh Airways Concorde is airborne after roaring down the Heathrow runway for 35 seconds yesterday. Three hours and 37 minutes later it landed at Bahrain

Photograph by Bill Warhurst

Two Concorde open supersonic era

Atmosphere of heady elation, excitement and British Airways and their supersonic Concorde yesterday, clipping their wings off previous flying records, British flight to Bahrain.

Landings at Bahrain and Rio

Reed 21. The British Airways Concorde roared down the runway for 35 seconds, watched by thousands of spectators crowding the rails at the airport, before it was airborne at 11.40 am. The engines were throttled back briefly to reduce the impact of the noise on the communities living at the end of the runway, and then the Concorde was climbing away at an angle of 25 degrees to its subsonic cruising height across Europe of 35,000 feet. Over Paris, Captain Todd exchanged good wishes with Captain Chanoine over the radio. One hour and 20 minutes later, over the northern end of the Atlantic, the 100 passengers on board felt a distinct surge of power as the airliner was accelerated through the sound barrier. Over the cabin address system, Captain Todd announced: "Ladies and gentlemen, we are now supersonic." The digital display in the passenger cabin indicated that we were flying at twice the speed of sound to the accompaniment of a round of applause from the 30 passengers who had paid the £576.20 round-trip fare and the 70 invited guests. Unfortunately the display in the rear cabin, where the guest of honour, the Duke of Kent, was seated, stuck at Mach 0.7 (about 460 mph) and no amount of banging of it by passengers could get it working again. Lunch of smoked salmon, breast of duck and fresh strawberries was served as the Concorde boomed its way over the islands of Crete and Cyprus, then across Lebanon and Syria. Thirty minutes before landing, reverse thrust was applied in flight and we began to descend from our cruising height of 12 miles into Bahrain. The flight was enriched by the presence on board of a gentleman from Trowbridge, Wiltshire, dressed overall in a fancy dress of white and purple and with his face painted silver. Mr Bob Ingham, aged 50, the manager of a plant hire company, said his outfit represented the age of Aquarius. He changed into it in a lavatory at the airport and then had some trouble in convincing the strict security guard that he was a bona fide passenger. Mr Ingham said he booked his flight on the day that the British Concorde first flew in 1969. "Every time it flies over Trowbridge I rush out and look at it," he said. The Duke of Kent said during the flight: "This is a great moment for aviation, both French and British. I have always been a tremendous fan of Concorde and I am a great believer in the future of this aircraft." Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, who was one of three Government ministers on the flight, said as we began our descent into Bahrain: "This aircraft is all about speed. Anybody who criticises Concorde is missing the point." One passenger who used the first commercial supersonic flight for business purposes was Mr Philip Croucher, a stamp dealer from Boreley, Hampshire, who was carrying 6,000 Concorde first-day covers for cancellation in Bahrain. He said during the flight that he had already sold most of the covers at £2 each to dealers in West London. Continued on page 2, col 3

Government faces defeat on jobless

By Our Political Staff

The Government is to meet head on the rebellion among its backbenchers over the level of unemployment by holding a full-day debate today week.

Ministers are aware that they face the prospect of defeat but view the possibility as something they will have to live with in sticking to the Government's economic strategy.

Labour backbenchers will be told today that there will be a three-line whip on Thursday but a number of Tribune group members have made it known that unless the Government announces changes they will vote against the Government's motion, which will be on the adjournment of the House.

Cabinet sources made clear last night that the Government would have little to offer in the debate to pacify the militants. It would not be deflected from its economic strategy and there was no prospect of offering import controls to the left.

Left-wingers suggested last night that at least 12 might vote against the Government and, as the Conservative and other parties are unlikely to support it, there is a distinct possibility of a government defeat.

Cabinet ministers have been almost compelled to have the debate after the Speaker in reply to Mr John Mendelson, Labour MP for Penistone, had said that "there should be a full and proper day's debate in the House on this matter".

Although the Cabinet is not happy at the prospect of a confrontation, ministers took the view that it would be dishonourable not to say provocative, if the Government did not allow the debate to take place in government time.

Revolt in TUC: Signs of a serious revolt in the TUC over the high level of unemployment emerged yesterday when Mr Jack Jones, the Government's most faithful trade union ally, demanded action to cut the number of unemployed (our Labour Editor writes).

Mr Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union and chief architect of the £6 pay restraint policy, sent an urgent message to Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, calling for immediate discussions with ministers.

He insisted that unemployment, 6.1 per cent of the working population on a crude reckoning, should be the item for next Monday's talks between union leaders and the Cabinet under the auspices of the TUC-Labour Party liaison committee.

The TGWU leader will tell ministers next Monday that he will participate in a further round of pay restraint unless measures to achieve full employment are taken by the Government. To maintain credibility with the workers, Mr Jones argued, the Government must be seen to be demanding job security.

An indication of the union's disquiet over unemployment came in a TUC policy and organization committee demand yesterday for the reduction of the Employment Protection Act to be brought forward from April to February.

Lira crisis gives urgency to search for new coalition

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Jan 21

The Italian crisis took its most dramatic turn with the closing of the foreign exchange market today in the midst of a desultory search for a new government.

Suggestions have been made that the monetary difficulties were provoked as a means of preventing the formation of a government judged too far to the left. Whatever the truth of these assertions, the serious nature of the political crisis is now accompanied as well as the need to give the country a government of some kind in the shortest possible time.

Signor Aldo Moro, the Prime Minister-designate who is also in charge of current business, continued his talks today with prospective allies. The economic situation may well have

Syria gambles on imposing its own solution on Lebanese Christians

From Paul Martin, Beirut, Jan 21

Syria increased pressure on the embattled Christian rightists today, pushing more Palestinian troops across the border as tough negotiators presented a solution the Syrians want to impose on Lebanon.

With reinforced Palestinian and Muslim forces advancing across more territory, Christian spokesmen repeated their call for outside intervention in the civil war to support them.

The arrival of more units of the Palestine Liberation Army to reinforce the estimated force of 1,500 men already fighting in Lebanon increased the stakes in the Syrian gamble. Failure to win agreement for the peace plan from President Frangieh and the other combatant Christian leaders could lead to even greater bloodshed and risk a widening of the conflict.

Should this happen, final evacuation plans for the small number of foreigners remaining here would almost certainly be put into effect. The task of removing them from the country has been made more difficult by the indefinite closure of the airport and the uncertainty of the road route to Syria, where Lebanese Army and Palestinian units face each other.

The Palestinian units that joined the battle this week have secured the strategic Chataura

crossroads on the main Damascus-Beirut highway, and brought most of the Bekaa valley under their control. The crossroads and positions beneath the besieged Christian town of Zahle, some miles south, were captured after an artillery battle with Lebanese Army units.

With the Lebanese Army dominating the road and secure in positions overlooking the valley, the Palestinians and Muslim forces seem content to sit on the territory they now hold. The arrival of the additional units, however, is interpreted as a warning that, if the Christian right remains intransigent, they will move further.

The basics of the Syrian plan were presented to President Frangieh, the Christian President, by the Syrian negotiating team, led by Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Foreign Minister, Major-General Hikmat Chehab, the Chief of Staff, and General Naji Jamil, the Air Force commander.

In essence the aim of the proposals would be to couple a ceasefire between the warring communities with a "political understanding" that fundamental reforms should be made to the country's political system. This would include a more equitable formula of power-sharing between the communities to redress the present imbalance in the Christian's favour.

It has been the opposite

approaches to the two fundamental questions of a restoration of law and order and political reforms that has scuttled all previous peace efforts. The Christian right has insisted that it will not discuss reforms until the rule of law returns to the country; the Muslims and leftists have demanded that their political demands should first be acknowledged in principle.

After meeting President Frangieh in his palace, Mr Khaddam and the two military chiefs flew by helicopter to Aaramoun, overlooking one of this week's battlefields, to brief the Muslim leaders.

The Middle East news agency reported in Cairo that the Muslim leaders approved the Syrian proposals, which include one that the numbers of Christian and Muslim deputies should be equal.

As Mr Khaddam was talking with President Frangieh, however, the Phalangists, through their secret radio, declared that they would fight to the last man.

In an effort to mobilise Christian opinion behind them, the Phalangists broadcast what they claimed was a statement from the Maronite Patriarch echoing the call for outside intervention to protect them. The Patriarch's office denied any knowledge of the statement, however.

Israelis worried, page 8
Syria's threat, page 14

London dig adds to roll of Roman governors

By Philip Howard

The Roman remains on the river front at Blackfriars, which have been prolific of important archaeological discoveries during the past year's excavations, have once again come up with remarkable new evidence about the Roman occupation.

It includes the name, Pulcher, and precise dates of a previously unknown governor of Britain. The list of our first heads of state is not quite complete; accordingly, the identification of a new one dedicating a building in his capital city is a prominent landmark in the archaeology of Roman Britain.

The remains consist of two inscribed stones found during the excavation of the Roman defensive wall, an excavation just completed by the department of urban archaeology of the Museum of London under Mr Brian Hobley, its chief urban archaeologist. The stones, two of nearly 30 that have been uncovered during the dig, have been petrologically examined and prove to be Lincolnshire limestone imported presumably by the coast route and up the Thames.

At first the stones were thought to have been altars incorporated in the wall at some crisis. Their inscriptions have now been deciphered and interpreted by Mr Mark Hassall, of the Institute of Archaeology, and show that they were dedicated by Pulcher, the governor, runs in translation: "In honour of the divine that is, imperial house, Marcus Marcellianus Pulcher vir egregius aedile atheni, that is, equestrian, praetorian legate of two emperors, ordered the... which had fallen down through old age to be restored."

The gap in the middle retains scattered letters that might indicate "the temple of Isis" or, less probably, "Britanniae Superioris". On the latter reading, Pulcher, hitherto unheard of, was governor of upper Britain.

The key words for dating the inscription are *vir egregius*, which indicates that the governor was an equestrian. Up to

Continued on page 2, col 3

Cabinet used in fight on CBI

ment of an "Inner Cabinet" of six to increase the effectiveness of British industry is one of the recommendations of an internal review of the CBI. The report reveals that the CBI does not formulate sufficient clear policy, and that its internal structure is not effective enough in dealing with its members.

Attacks break out in centre of Lisbon

As killed and four injured seriously in the centre of Lisbon yesterday, it occurred during a shop assistants' strike.

Officials criticized

al Board officials are criticized over at Houghton Main colliery last June, when were killed. A decision whether legal proceedings may be announced.

Appeal: An appeal for £500,000 for Beverly Minister during the ars was launched yesterday

ork: Men on probation are clearing a cemetery as one of three projects native to traditional measures.

Oranges: The Belgian Government anyone refusing to sell potatoes at prices with fines and jail sentences

charges: A Scot is sentenced in a total of 80 years' imprisonment. He 17 years in jail.

it opportunities: Four-page classified

£50,000m for defence in US budget

A rise in defence spending to more than \$50,000m is proposed by President Ford in the United States budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1976. Cuts in spending on education and social services and an overall reduction in real terms in government expenditure are also proposed.

More petrol prices cut

The petrol price was escalated yesterday with both Shell and Texaco announcing reductions. A report compiled by government departments claims that price-cutting is not against the long-term interest of the motorist.

Leader page 15

Letters: On Western policy on Southern Africa from Mr Ian Lloyd, MP; criticism of Christian Aid from Mr David Smithers and others.

Features: Devolution; Italian economy.

Football: Manchester City to meet Newcastle United in League Cup final; Rugby Union: Australia beat Gwent at Pontypool; Monte Carlo Rally: Heavy snow in French Alps causes several accidents; Boxing: Neil Allen on the selection of overseas opponents.

Obituary: page 16
Sir Alexander Haddow

Books, page 17
Michael Ratcliffe reviews *Gambard: Prince of the Victorian Art World* by Jeremy Mass; Laurence Conner reviews a new book on Gauguin; Philip Howard on new novels, including E. L. Doctorow's *Ragtime*.

Business News, pages 18-23
Stock markets: Equities failed to rally after a weak Wall Street opening. The FT index closed 7.8 down to 388.4.

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Crew stay in burning ship shaken by explosions

From Ronald Faux, Dunfermline

The French trawler *Cité d'Aleth*, still on fire and with occasional explosions reported from her hull, was being towed to shelter by a French vessel, the *Mont Cenis*, last night off west Scotland.

Her crew of 10, after refusing British offers of help, were sheltering in the wheelhouse. Two men in the British tug *Lloydsman* were slightly injured during an attempt to fix a towline in wild seas with storm force winds. Last night the tug was heading for Stornoway.

The *Mont Cenis* eventually found a towline to the *Cité d'Aleth*, which drifted near Skerryvore lighthouse.

The coastguard at Stornoway said the two vessels, with other French trawlers, were heading towards the Minch.

The Northern Rescue Centre at Dunfermline said British rescue services had been withdrawn.

Train 10 hours late: A train from London due in Glasgow just before 10 pm on Tuesday arrived at 8 am yesterday, 10 hours late (the Press Association reports). "Overhead wires were down at four different places," British Rail said.

"The train had to be pulled back some distance to put it on a diversionary route, then there was a derailment on that route." Other London-Glasgow trains were delayed by up to two and a half hours.

Several roads in west Scotland were reported to be blocked by game debris. High winds were continuing throughout Scotland, the Midlands, the North, and East Anglia, the RAC said.

Ulster gunmen ambush school bus

From Christopher Walker, Belfast

Tension and fear among families in remote districts of Northern Ireland increased yesterday after a school bus had been ambushed in the border county of Tyrone.

Two schoolgirls being taken to a concert and the driver were on board when three gunmen opened fire near the village of Ardara. The vehicle was hit by a dozen bullets.

The attack was believed to have been mounted by a local unit of the Provisional IRA and directed against the driver, aged 58, a member of the RUC police reserve, who was wounded in the arm and face. The two girls were unhurt.

Yesterday's incident marks a further deterioration in the type of campaign being waged by armed extremists.

Government accused, page 2

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South African Airways

Where no one's a stranger

Government accused, page 2

HOME NEWS

Heavier penalties for violence favoured by majority, survey finds

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Sixty-four per cent of people in Britain aged between 15 and 65 favour heavier penalties for serious crimes of violence, according to a survey carried out for the Police Federation. Fewer than three out of 10 advocate more "understanding" of such behaviour. Eight out of 10 accept the view that "too much is done for criminals, and not enough for victims", and only 6 per cent disagree with it.

Continuing the federation's campaign to change penal policies that it regards as too lenient, Mr Leslie Male, its chairman, told a meeting of policemen in Manchester yesterday that the survey was "proof that we have the large majority of the population with us".

"A large and increasing majority readily accept the degree of authority society gives to the police forces of this country," he said.

After the last meeting in the campaign, at Exeter in November, 25 Labour MPs signed an early-day motion regretting the federation's campaign. It said "the police forces of this country are entitled to retain and defend its long established policy of non-interference in politics".

Mr Male said yesterday that MPs under pressure from constituents to say where they stand on issues of law and public order would "just have to take notice".

Magistrates would have to learn that they could not dispense justice in a vacuum, regardless of the needs of local communities.

"Someone has to give a lead to the ordinary people who want to see things change for the better. Who better than their local police officers?" If Review, the weekly news magazine, started to take more

interest in what their children were doing, if magistrates began to take a more practical view of criminal matters, and if just one policeman fewer was assaulted each day, the campaign would be justified.

Many people were seriously disturbed about hooliganism at football matches, but only about a fifth would strongly support the reintroduction of birching, he said. Only a small minority fear the possibility of personal violence to themselves. "For the most part, therefore, it must be sympathy with the innocent victims of a violent crime rather than the desire, created, I fear, for stronger retributive punishment which makes people urge a tougher attitude to those convicted of such offences."

Two many social workers identify themselves with the criminal rather than the victim, Mr Male said. "There have been too many examples of social workers who have failed to understand their job, and there have been too many cases where social workers have neglected to report serious crimes to the police."

He suggested that the Police Federation should ensure that legal sanctions force social workers to report criminal matters to the police.

Policemen in different parts of the country say they are beginning to carry their campaign into their local areas. In Wales, for example, the federation has sent letters to 36 councils, to the Welsh TUC and CBI and to the four main political parties of Wales, asking for talks on the rising crime rate. Federation representatives are meeting councillors, though one called its letter to them "provocative" and "from neo-fascists", according to Police Review, the weekly news magazine.

Earache at end of Concorde's runway 28

By Michael Horsnell

As the Concorde's first passengers prepared to toast the dawn of supersonic travel in champagne yesterday, a tiny band of protesters clapped their hands over their ears in Mrs Eileen Mead's back garden, less than half a mile from the end of Heathrow airport's runway 28.

Noise meters on her lawn registered 134 perceived noise decibels (PNdb), the annoyance scale by which aircraft noise is measured, compared with the permitted maximum of 110 for subsonic aircraft, and above the 125 PNdb threshold of pain in the ears.

The meters were placed there by the Local Authorities Aircraft Noise Council (LAANC), which represents 52 local authorities in the Heathrow area and which is fighting for the peace of mind of people like Mrs Mead.

The figure, registered at Horton Road, Stanwell Moor, as the Concorde flew over at about 5,000 ft, was not disputed by the Department of Trade, whose own measuring points ring the airport, but further out the department's highest reading was 112 at Sunnymede, Berkshire.

But whatever the response of the group in Mrs Mead's garden, the British Airports Authority said it had received only one complaint about the aircraft yesterday: a telephone caller from Windsor protested that it was flying too low.

For the many Concorde enthusiasts who were prepared to take the pain to their ears, however, yesterday was a marvellous day for sightseeing.



Lord and Lady Leathers, who 12 years ago were the first people to book seats on the Concorde's inaugural flight, at the Heathrow check-in yesterday.

Roads close to the aircraft were blocked and crowds flocked to the airport.

Mr Fred Miller, a Heathrow engineer, formed a "Friends of Concorde" group and collected a 600-name petition supporting the aircraft, which he sent to the Prime Minister.

The Queen sent a message to Mr Henry Marking, deputy chairman and managing director of British Airways, describing the Concorde as "a magnificent achievement".

At the airport a handful of demonstrators, holding banners, gathered next to the Concorde desks at Heathrow.

One man who came to listen to the noise at Stanwell Moor was Mr Clinton Davis, Under Secretary of State for Trade. He arrived incognito but is expected to meet Mr Geoffrey Holmes, chairman of the Local Authorities Aircraft Noise Council and chief environmental health officer for Reading, after noise measurements by the council and the Department of Trade have been studied.

Mr Holmes said: "It was hellishly noisy and above the threshold of pain. Mr Clinton Davis is very concerned about people here, and like us, he hopes that pilots, when they become familiar with the plane,

will lessen the noise. He has promised that he will re-examine the question of operating the Concorde in the light of the first operations."

Mr Clinton Davis has also asked the Medical Research Council to investigate noise in general and that from the Concorde in particular.

Mr Holmes added: "Our council is for the Concorde; we hope it will succeed. But if it is too noisy it should be flown from somewhere else, where it will not disturb so many people." He suggested that it could operate from Stansted when roads there have been improved.

Also on board were M Jean de Lipkowski, the new Minister for Cooperation, who was stopping off at Dakar, M Jean Caville, the State Secretary for Transport, and the presidents of Air France and of Air Algérie, the makers of the Concorde.

It was a great day also for M Henri Ziegler, the former head of Aerospatiale, who fought tooth and nail for 13 years to see the project through.

President Giscard d'Estaing, who had entertained the crew of the supersonic aircraft along with M André Turcat, the chief test pilot, to breakfast at the Elysée, sent a message to the Queen in reply to hers. "After having for 14 years, shared the worries and the difficulties of the undertaking," he said, "our two nations today share the pride of achievement. I rejoice in this with you, for by opening a new era in the history of civil aviation, today's event demonstrates what Franco-British

Government gets 445 majority on press Bill

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Westminster

Renewed attempts to give statutory backing to the proposals for a change in press freedom which the Government is hoping to insert into the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill when it reaches the Lords were defeated in the Commons yesterday by 238 votes to 45, a government majority of 45.

Which both Front Benches loudly proclaiming their determination to preserve and enhance the freedom of the press, Mr Prior, Conservative spokesman on the subject, reminded MPs that the need for powers to redress by an injured party was the main difference between the two sides of the Commons.

The Opposition took the view that the law had to play although it was not seeking the wholesale reintroduction of the position as it was in the Industrial Relations Act, 1971. There was a fear, he said, that if the National Union of Journalists obtained a monopoly among working journalists it might try to force a management to agree to a closed shop by threat of a strike. Once that was achieved the union could control what was published.

The Bill resumed its progress towards the statute book under the shadow of the Parliament Acts machinery requiring a procedure that was new to most MPs. Because of the need for the Bill to leave the Commons

for the Lords in the time prime state as it was when it arrived there for the first time early last year, the committee stage was taken formally on Tuesday.

Yesterday the amendments which would normally have been debated at the committee stage, were before the House as "suggested amendments" for the Lords to consider for insertion into the Bill during its later stages.

Winding up the debate on the press charter, Mr Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said he hoped the Lords would consider the matter afresh and that they would understand that the Government was not prepared to reinstate sections of the 1971 Act. He felt it would be "deeply offensive" to the journalists' union to pick it out from other unions and to say that it could not be trusted.

Mr Foot made clear to MPs his determination to preserve press freedom. "I agree," he said, "that if we reach a situation in this country where the NUJ or some other body used its monopoly power to deny access to the press and to outside contributors, then this thing about it to ensure that that scandal did not continue and take root."

His view had always been, however, that that would be a difficult thing to do by legislation. That was why the Government was proposing a charter designed by the people who worked in the industry.

Parliamentary report, page 6

Inquiry into information used by Mr Paisley

By George Clark

The Royal Ulster Constabulary is investigating how information from a confidential document submitted to Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, came into the possession of the Rev Ian Paisley, Ulster Unionist MP for Antrim, North.

Mr Paisley referred to the document at a sitting of the Northern Ireland Committee of the House of Commons yesterday, in a discussion on housing. He said a memorandum from a senior civil servant submitted to Mr Rees before Mr James (Seamus) O'Hara, a Roman Catholic, was appointed chairman of the Northern Ireland housing executive in December stated: "He sees himself as the defender of the interests of

the minority community on housing."

Mr Concannon, Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who was the Government's spokesman, at the committee, reported the facts to Mr Rees afterwards. Last night he was investigating what appears to be a third leak of confidential information.

Labour MPs said Mr Paisley's use of the document was in keeping with the general tone being adopted by some Ulster Unionists in attacking the appointment of Roman Catholics.

At the instigation of Mr Rees last night the Royal Ulster Constabulary was asked to make inquiries with a view to a prosecution under the Official Secrets Act.

Tears of joy and sambas at Paris airport

Continued from page 1

Germany and Switzerland. They were already on resale offer for £5 and he expected them to be worth £20 each in 10 years' time.

Mr Croucher carried the covers in four suitcases on which he paid £205 excess baggage charges.

Charles Hargrove writes from Paris: Concorde was given an emotional and noisy send off at Roissy today by about 600 guests bidden by Air France to wish it good speed on its first regular flight to Rio. They milled around between several buffets piled high with delicacies and flowing with in-exhaustible floods of champagne while a Brazilian band provided a suitable musical background of wild sambas.

It was a miracle that the passengers managed to find their way to the special cordoned-off section of the hall by embarkation time. Two reporters did in fact fail to appear until the last minute, and only got on board just before the doors of the aircraft closed.

French television and Air France had made a special effort on the occasion. As the French and British Concorde taxis to the runway, the guests watched them both on divided television screens dotted about the reception hall.

The take-off was an emotional moment. Many applauded, some even cried with joy. An insidious rumour had it that the French supersonic had beaten its British counterpart by a couple of seconds. In fact, it taxied a shorter distance.

The veteran of the 100 passengers, 60 of them French, was Madame Aurélie Ouilie, of Toulouse, a specialist in inaugural flights. She was on board the liner France for its inaugural transatlantic cruise 14 years ago.

Another passenger, M Emmanuel Pécond, made his first flight with Air France in 1933.

friendship and cooperation are capable of accomplishing in the service of scientific and technical progress."

Rio de Janeiro, Jan 21.—The Air France Concorde completed its flight today and landed here 36 minutes behind schedule from Paris via Dakar.

The aircraft left Paris at 11.40 GMT and landed at Rio at 19.06 GMT. It made an 80-minute refuelling stop at Dakar after arriving there ahead of time. Normally the Concorde will make only a one-hour stop there.—Reuter.

Paris, Jan 21.—Air France announced that the Concorde flight was briefly delayed in the air after taking off from Dakar by a fault in the air intake of one of the engines.

The incident kept the aircraft at subsonic speed longer than planned, but did not at any time endanger the security of the flight, the company said. The incident was quickly dealt with but was partly responsible for the delayed landing at Rio.—AP.

Irish minister questioned

The dispute in the Irish Republic over the delivery last weekend of two tons of explosives in Ulster reached the Irish Parliament last night.

Mr Patrick Cooney, Minister for Justice, was questioned by several deputies, including Mr Jack Lynch, chief of the opposition Fianna Fáil party.

But Mr Cooney disclosed little. Investigations into the discovery of the explosives in a tanker lorry near Newry have still to be completed.

The lorry was intercepted by Northern Ireland security forces after being loaded south of the border. Mr Collins, Fianna Fáil's spokesman on justice, said there was grave public disquiet.

Mr Cooney refused to say whether any coding system existed to identify explosives manufactured in Ireland. But he confirmed that a large amount of the explosives was ammonium nitrate, which is not produced in the republic.

A Roman governor identified

Continued from page 1

the reign of Gallienus, who excluded senators from military commands, governors (legati Augusti) would have been senators. That gives a terminus post quem. The inscription's assertion that Pulcher served under two emperors narrows the date.

We can conclude the Pulcher was governor during the joint rule of Carinus and Numerianus, before the death of the latter: that is, AD283-4. The other possible runner is the period of joint rule by Diocletian and Maximian before the revolt of Carausius, that is AD286-7.

Both dates fit snugly into the band of possible dates given by radiocarbon dating of the piles of the wall. A final but less likely date for Pulcher and his two emperors would be 296, after the recovery of Britain, but before the Diocletianic reorganisation.

Pulcher's second name, Mariannus, with its double "n", is not absolutely certain and not attested before. It could be a formation from the cognomen, Mariannus, or the doubling of the "n" could be a misprint by the stonemason.

The second inscription is on a dedicatory stone by a freedman, or imperial slave, next to the governor's stone, for the temple of Jupiter.

Mr Hassall said: "It is excellent to have a new name to add to the list of governors of Britannia Superior, and to establish that his period of office is probably to be dated within the relatively short period of 283-7." The present series of archaeological excavations had been more fruitful in uncovering Roman London and its history than any since the Romans left us.

Bewbush deal estate agents cease to be partners

By Diana Geddes

Mr Christopher Smith and Mr Derek Ritchie, the two partners of the Horsham branch of Weller Eggar, the estate agents who conducted the controversial Bewbush land deal, ceased to be partners from yesterday, Weller Eggar announced in the business appointments section of The Times today.

The 644-acre Bewbush estate, owned by Mr Lionel Brooks, was sold by the Horsham branch of Weller Eggar for £325m on November 3, 1972. It was a consortium of three companies: the Rees Pension Fund, of which Lord Ryder of Eaton Hastings, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, was then a director; Broadland Properties, of Scarborough; and the Namdang Tea Company, of London.

Four months later, 310 acres of the estate, which had been zoned for development by the county council, was sold by the agents to Crawley council for £7m. The £3.75m profit was shared among the three companies, and a special commission, believed to be a fifth of the profits was paid.

On Monday the 16 partners of Weller Eggar held a meeting to discuss "the ethics of the case". Mr Donald Morley, senior partner responsible for property, has said that the land deals were conducted exclusively by the Horsham office and that the other partners were unaware of the details until they were disclosed in the press.

The commercial branch of Sussex police has been conducting inquiries into the deals of the past nine months and is about to submit a file on the case to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

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Police hunt for sadistic killer of woman

Detectives are hunting a killer who murdered Mrs Emily Jackson, aged 42, the mother of three children and dumped her body not far from Leeds city centre. The body of Mrs Jackson, of Back Green Street, Thurwell, near Leeds, was discovered by two men on their way to work yesterday.

It was lying between two derelict houses in Manor Street, Chapeltown, near an industrial estate. Det Chief Superintendent Dennis Hobbs, head of Leeds CID, said she had severe head injuries and other injuries, on which he did not wish to elaborate. The killer was sadistic and possibly a sexual pervert.

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NUR would oppose fare rises 'leading to run-down'

The National Union of Railwaymen said yesterday that it was prepared to resist any further fare increases that would threaten a run-down of the industry.

Mr Sheehy Weighell, general secretary, had asked to meet the British Railways Board before it announces the next round of fare increases, which are due in the spring and are expected to be almost 30 per cent.

"We will not allow the board to reach decisions that make a

case for reducing train services and consequently the railway network," he said. "Usage of the Euston to Glasgow route had fallen by 30 per cent during the last year and passenger numbers in Midland Region by 24 per cent."

The three railway unions are formulating their next joint pay claim to replace the agreement that expires in April, and it is almost certain that the maximum allowed under the Government-TUC policy.

"We will not allow the board to reach decisions that make a

£20,000 loss monthly on Commons meals

By Our Political Staff

The refreshment department of the House of Commons is losing £20,000 a month, according to a questionnaire circulated by Mr Ian Mikardo, MP, chairman of a committee of inquiry at Westminster.

In a letter accompanying the questionnaire, addressed to members of the Press Gallery among others, Mr Mikardo explains: "We are examining the refreshment department of the House, and particularly its management techniques and its system of financial control; and we are doing so against the background of mounting concern in some quarters at the rapid growth in the expenditure over its income: the gap has now reached £20,000 a month."

Mr Mikardo adds that the committee does not think it can make valid judgments about improving the situation without considering the views of users of the department's services: MPs, officers and staff of the Commons, and the press.

In fact all newspaper management make contributions to cover any losses that arise in the Press Gallery canteen and dining-room, in proportion to the number of staff employed in the work of parliamentary reporting or communications.

For the last financial year the contribution from the newspapers was £10,000.

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Linda Lovelace 'showed sex was joyful'

Miss Linda Lovelace had demonstrated in her paperback biography that sex was a joyful experience which should be enjoyed by women as well as men, a witness said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Mrs Marian Boyars was giving evidence in the trial of Johannes Heinrich Hanau, a publisher, and his company, Heinrich Hanau Publications, both of Old Compton Street, Soho, London, who pleaded not guilty to publishing an obscene article.

Mrs Boyars said that in her book, *Inside Linda Lovelace*, the author advocated that women should enjoy sex in the same way in which men had been allowed to enjoy it over centuries, and that it was a pleasant, lovely, joyful experience.

At one point in Mrs Boyars's evidence, when she was referring to a certain practice mentioned in the book, Judge Riggall, QC, said: "Oh, this is all too technical for me, I am afraid."

In a statement from the dock Mr Hanau said: "My publishing philosophy is simply to make available to the public books which are topical and interesting; which inform and stimulate debate in our society."

Dr Brian Richards, a general practitioner, of Sandwich, Kent, and a specialist in sexual difficulties, said he considered the book helpful to couples.

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COUNTRY LIFE Fine Arts Number

Future of a Reynolds Masterpiece
John Cornforth discusses the important portrait by Reynolds at Dodington Hall, near Lincoln, and considers the problem of keeping works of art in their historic settings.

Pyramids and Pagodas for Flowers
Michael Archer writes about the large Delft vases that were fashionable in England during the reign of William and Mary.

Embroidered by Queen and Countess
J. L. Nevinson describes the embroideries by Mary Queen of Scots and Bess of Hardwick now on display at Oxburgh Hall, Norfolk.

Millet at the Hayward
Christopher Neve reviews a major exhibition at the Hayward Gallery of paintings and drawings by Jean-François Millet.

Updating the Ivories
Michael Wilson looks at the work of Baillie Scott, who brought a new simplicity to piano design during the 1890s.

On sale now



Do your goods travel more safely than your directors?

What the packaging industry has done for goods in transit, Volvo has done for man in transit.

In Sweden, where almost every make of car is represented, statistics have shown that there are fewer fatal accidents in Volvos—that Volvos are safer in head-on collisions—and by far the safest in collisions with other cars.

Think about that for a moment.

How many men do you know who've been lost or damaged en route?

Maybe some of them would have survived in a safer container.

Like a Volvo.

It's not as though there need be any sacrifice of comfort or quality.

Our new Volvo 264 GL has all the refinements you'd expect of a £5766 car.

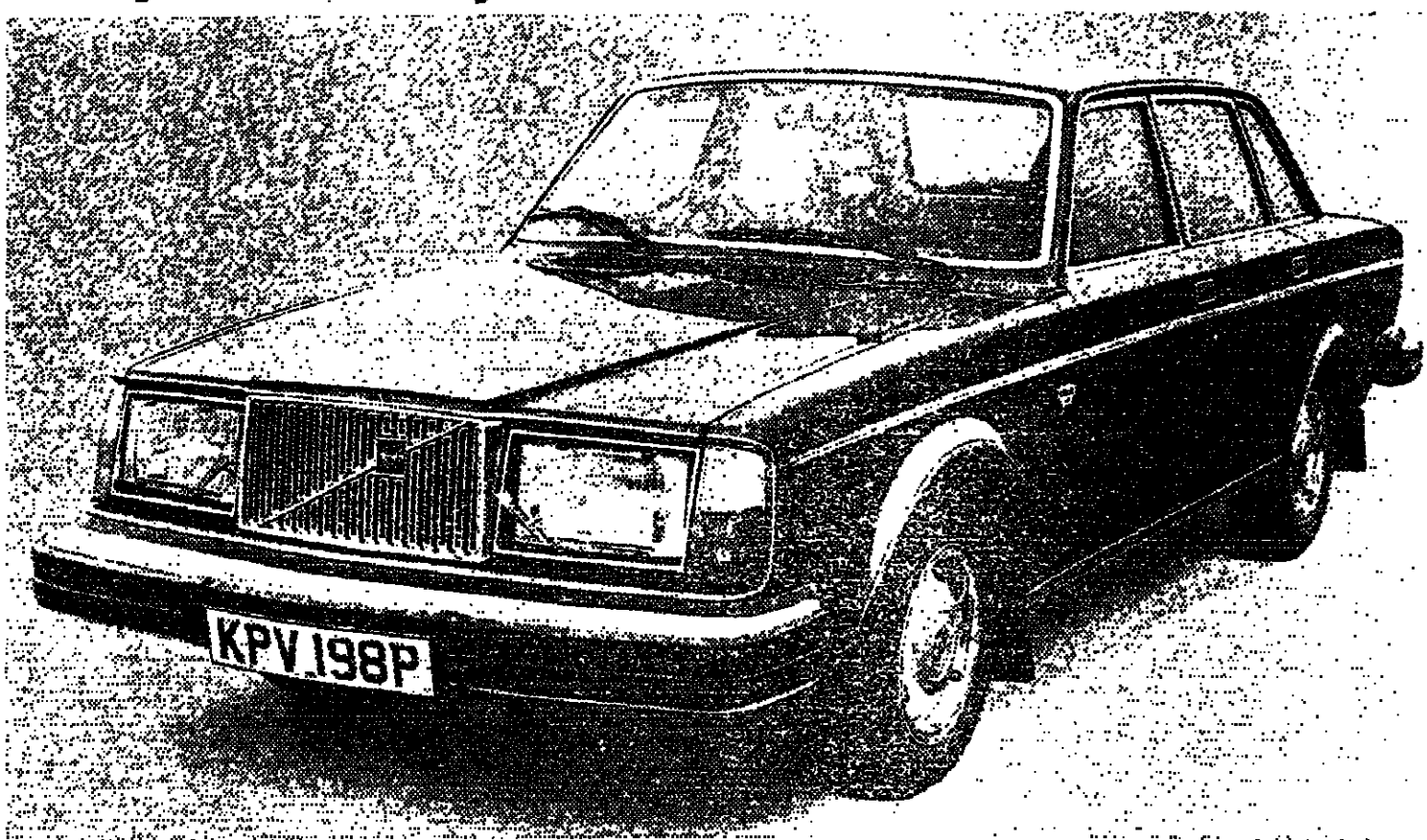
The engine is a smooth V-6. The

paintwork is metallic, the seats leather.

Air conditioning, power steering, electric windows and a steel sun roof are all standard.

No one expects your directors to lower their sights.

Just their risks. **VOLVO 264**



HOME NEWS

Prosecution tells jury of £3,695 bungalow and defendant's £4,000 union mortgage at 3 per cent

Mr Peter Taylor, QC, continuing his opening address in the corruption trial at Teesside Crown Court, Middlesbrough, yesterday, said the only matter he was going to mention about Andrew Cunningham, a former chairman of Durham County Council, one of the defendants, was his bungalow. Built by another defendant, Sidney McCullough, a builder, it was sold to Mr Cunningham for £3,695, it is alleged.

Counsel said it was built on the best site on the estate, and when Mr Cunningham moved in he immediately insured it for £7,500. Mr Cunningham, then northern district secretary of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, wrote to its general secretary, Mr John Cooper.

The letter said: "Dear Brother Cooper, You will recall I discussed with you recently the possibility of my moving to a new house. I have first claim on a good site in a good neighbourhood, and it is my wish to build a house compatible with my job. It is essential that I should move from my present domicile as I am being continually pestered with local Labour Party matters, urban district matters and all the tribulations that come with being a member of a local authority. I will need to do a lot of entertaining and one of the present disadvantages of my home is that there is no garage attached to my house."

Mr Taylor said the union advanced a mortgage of £4,000

at 3 per cent on the new property. Mr Cunningham told Mr Cooper, new Lord Cooper of Stockton Heath, that he was hoping to be elected to the national executive of the Labour Party.

One of Mr McCullough's foremen supervised work on the bungalow, counsel continued. Window frames and tiles were specially ordered, and the interior fittings were all to Mr Cunningham's specifications.

None of these featured in the original plans, which were drawn up by an assistant architect employed by Durham County Council, with the permission of the council, provided he did the work in his own time and took no fee.

Jointly charged with Mr McCullough, aged 53, of Tynemouth, are Sydney Docking, aged 65, a former chairman of Durham County Council; Mr Cunningham, aged 65; Robert Urwin, aged 62, a former chairman of Chester-le-Street council; and Matthew Allon, aged 72, a former chairman of the North East Development Council.

They are accused of conspiring together that Mr McCullough should corruptly make and that the other four should corruptly receive payments for showing favour to Mr McCullough or companies with which he was associated in relation to planning applications and consents.

Mr Taylor said Mr Allon received free petrol and the use of a McCullough company car, and had some work done at his house. There was an arrangement with the Vigo Lane service station at Durham Road, Birley, Tyne and Wear, whereby "employees and others driving under the McCullough flag" could obtain petrol without payment by signing for it.

Counsel said: "Mr Allon started going to the petrol station and getting petrol on the McCullough account, but when it came to signing for it this county councillor signed in the name of Potts, and when the accounts were put in each month there was never any query about who Potts was."

"Mrs Wilson, a secretary working at McCullough's office, will say that Potts was a name McCullough himself used when he did not want to give his own, and when he wanted to get someone in authority on the telephone he would tell her to say that Mr Potts wanted him. What is a county councillor doing signing bills in another name?" he asked the jury.

Mr Taylor said none of the councillors ever declared their interests when Mr McCullough's affairs were being discussed by the council. "They did not declare their interest in Mr McCullough's affairs, their part in his affairs, or their receipts from him."

The trial continues today.

£500,000 is needed for Beverley Minster

From Our Correspondent Beverley

A total of £500,000 is needed for a large-scale restoration of Beverley Minster, which will extend over the next 10 years.

Lord Middleton, chairman of an appeal committee, launching the fund at Beverley yesterday, said it was hoped that the target figure could be achieved in seven years. It was the minimum needed in the opinion of the minster architect, Mr W. Emil Godfrey. The sum would provide £232,000 for external stonework repairs; £122,000 for glazing and ironwork; £52,000 for lead work on the roof; £50,000 for structural work to roof timbers; and £44,000 for internal stonework, vaulting and floors.

Lord Middleton said they had deferred their appeal so as not to clash with those for York Minster, Selby Abbey and Holy Trinity, Hull. "Even now our appeal will inevitably clash somewhat with that being made for Canterbury Cathedral," he said.

"In spite of this I am sure we were right in our decision to defer our appeal, but the circumstances have served only to emphasize the urgency and the fact that, bearing inflation



Beverley Minster, begun about 1220 and built from east to west in three distinct epochs.

in mind, it is, as far as the minster is concerned, almost a case of now or never."

Leading companies in Hull and district had made substantial covenants which had already assured the appeal fund of £130,000, including a gift of £25,000 from Beverley council. The appeal is based on the

amount of urgent repair work known to be necessary from the regular quinquennial surveys of those parts of the church to which access is readily available. Unless the restoration is done now irreparable damage may be caused to the fabric and foundations. Mr Godfrey says that al-

though the workings of the death watch beetle are being successfully contained - roof timbers throughout the church need renewal or repair. Because of rust, the bars at a high level will have to be extracted and sound fixings substituted. Large areas of window need reglazing.

Sewerage rule puts 23pc on SW water rate

Householders in south-west England will have to pay an extra 23 per cent for water from April 1, an average increase of 7p a week. The general services charge, levied on homes connected to the public sewers, will go up by just under 23 per cent, the equivalent of an additional 12p a week for the average family.

The increases, announced yesterday by the South West Water Authority, reflect the effects of the recent House of Lords ruling that sewerage charges cannot be levied against people whose homes are not connected to main sewers. Nearly £3m of the additional £6.5m to be raised is put down to the cost of refunds for those whose homes are not connected to a public sewer.

Control of arms trade urged

The world trade in armaments is condemned as "a threat not only to millions of lives but to life itself" in a report published today by the Roman Catholic Justice and Peace Commission for England and Wales. On every moral and practical ground it is a threat that is unendurable, the report declares.

It calls for an international world control system operated by a world authority with universal jurisdiction, as the long-term answer, with interim measures to control and scale down the arms trade. (Catholic Information Office: 74 Galloway Hill Lane, Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire, AL8 6PP).

Orders to strike off solicitors

Charles Robert Snelling, aged 34, of Osborne Road, New Milton, Hampshire, was ordered to be struck off the roll by the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal yesterday, but the order was suspended on condition that he was said to have admitted allegations of professionally unbecoming conduct.

The tribunal also made a striking-off order against Michael John Higson, of High Street, Birmingham, for unbecoming conduct and breaches of accounts rules.

New benefit for war invalids

Relatives of war pensioners receiving a constant attendance allowance will be able to claim the Government's new benefit for people caring for severely disabled relatives, draft regulations made clear yesterday.

The invalid care allowance of £7.90 a week is to be introduced during the 1976-77 tax year and is expected to benefit 11,500 people. It is intended to help people who give up their own jobs to care for a severely disabled relative.

Big Ben strikes

Big Ben stopped for an hour at 11.46 am yesterday. It returned to the right time at 3.20 pm. The Department of the Environment said that maintenance men had been unable to find any specific fault. The chimneys were stopped on Tuesday for cleaning.

Cyprus committee to get full power as before

By George Clark Political Correspondent

A dispute between the Select Committee on Cyprus and the Government seems to have been settled as a result of the Prime Minister's intervention. For more than a week MPs of the committee have opposed a government motion that would have deprived them of the power to send for people, papers and records, preventing them from taking evidence from Mr Callaghan, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, or from one of his junior ministers.

Yesterday, after Mr Arthur Bottomley, former Commonwealth Secretary, who is chairman of the committee, had discussed the issue with Mr Wilson, the protesting MPs learnt that the Government motion will be withdrawn and the committee re-established with the full powers it had last session in the last session of Parliament.

It had been the Government's intention simply to reappoint the committee with the task of compiling by April 15 its report on the situation in the

Republic of Cyprus with particular reference to the current position of United Kingdom residents there.

The committee thought that was unreasonable because there were subjects raised by people whom the members met in Cyprus last year on which they wanted to hear evidence from Mr Callaghan or a junior minister. The committee had evidence from Mr Hattersley, Minister of State, before it visited the island.

When the committee complained about the restricted terms of reference some members were told that Mr Callaghan wished to avoid public questioning because of the delicate state of relations between Britain and Greece and Turkey. It is now assumed that that objection has been dropped.

If the committee is given the full powers it had last session it would be possible to revisit Cyprus. If arrangements could be made to visit the Turkish sector, which was not possible last time, the committee would certainly want to.

MPs to demand inquiry into NCB dismissal

Mr Short, Leader of the House of Commons, is to be asked to meet a delegation from the miners' group of Labour MPs over the dismissal of Mr Alan Grimshaw, a National Coal Board official who gave evidence to a Commons select committee.

Mr Grimshaw, aged 55, a chief stores officer, was made redundant more than a year ago after he had given evidence to a Commons committee investigating allegations that the board had wasted £2m on over-priced and superfluous equipment.

Mr Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover, who is chairman of the miners' group, said yesterday: "We want a full inquiry. We want also to sort out the rights of people who give evidence to select committees. They should be able to do so without fear of further consequences."

Road deaths down

There were 580 road deaths last November, a fall of 15 per cent on November, 1974, preliminary figures from the Department of the Environment showed yesterday. There were 7,000 serious injuries, a drop of 5 per cent.

Inflation 'forces shoppers to cut food purchases'

By Hugh Clayton Agricultural Correspondent

Inflation is forcing shoppers to reduce purchases of food, the largest commercial farming organization in Britain said yesterday. A survey compiled by the food division of the Co-operative Wholesale Society showed that while the national food bill was rising the amount bought was falling.

"In the past times of economic stress food has been the last sacrifice," the survey said. But that had changed, so that last spring the amount of goods bought in shops had risen slightly while the amount of food bought had fallen compared with the previous spring.

"Not only is the national food bill rising the amount bought was falling in later months. High unemployment is causing a switch in the type of food bought," the survey went on. It added that government figures took little account of mothers who had lost their jobs. "Not only is the family income down but she also has more time to shop around and prepare for herself what was previously done for her in a packet or tin."

The survey included a forecast that retail profits would be squeezed as shoppers turned to cheaper foods.

The National Housewives' Association told shoppers yesterday that the only way to make potatoes cheaper was to stop buying them. Mrs Sandra Brooks, the association's spokesman, said: "If half the women in this country bought potatoes for only a short time, say a fortnight, prices would come tumbling down."

English and Welsh farmers were told at the annual meeting of the National Farmers' Union yesterday that EEC plans to bring potatoes into the common agricultural policy would not help growers or consumers.

Mr George Ledson, chairman of the union's potato committee, said: "The draft regulation appears to reduce support to the minimum. We fear that it would put the industry back 10 years."

The C&K of a potato policy for the common market means that each member state could keep the regime it had used before joining. The draft regulation would sweep away the Potato Marketing Board in Britain.

Scots campaign on alcoholism launched

From Our Correspondent Glasgow

The habits of drinkers in Scotland, where alcoholism was said yesterday to be four times as bad as in England, are to be monitored every five years on behalf of the Scottish Health Education Unit.

The unit is launching a publicity campaign throughout this year and 1977, using the press, television and leaflets, as well as counsellor training schemes, to impress on people the danger of drink.

Dr David Player, director of the unit, said at a Glasgow press conference yesterday that the campaign was "not in the same league" as the drink industry's advertising, which had

led to a dramatic increase in alcohol consumption over the past 10 years.

The health education campaign is estimated to cost £252,000, which will be entirely borne by taxpayers. The drink industry, he said, spent £30m a year.

Dr Player said it was estimated that there were 75,000 alcoholics in Scotland, but the figure might be as high as 120,000, and about 300,000 people in Scotland were indirectly affected by alcohol abuse.

The cost of alcoholism to Scottish industry was estimated at £25m at least. Admissions to psychiatric hospitals for alcoholics rose by 89 per cent between 1965 and 1973. Male

admissions were seven times greater than in England.

Alcoholism in Scotland was four times as bad as in England, but in the Highlands and Islands it was 12 times more serious than south of the border.

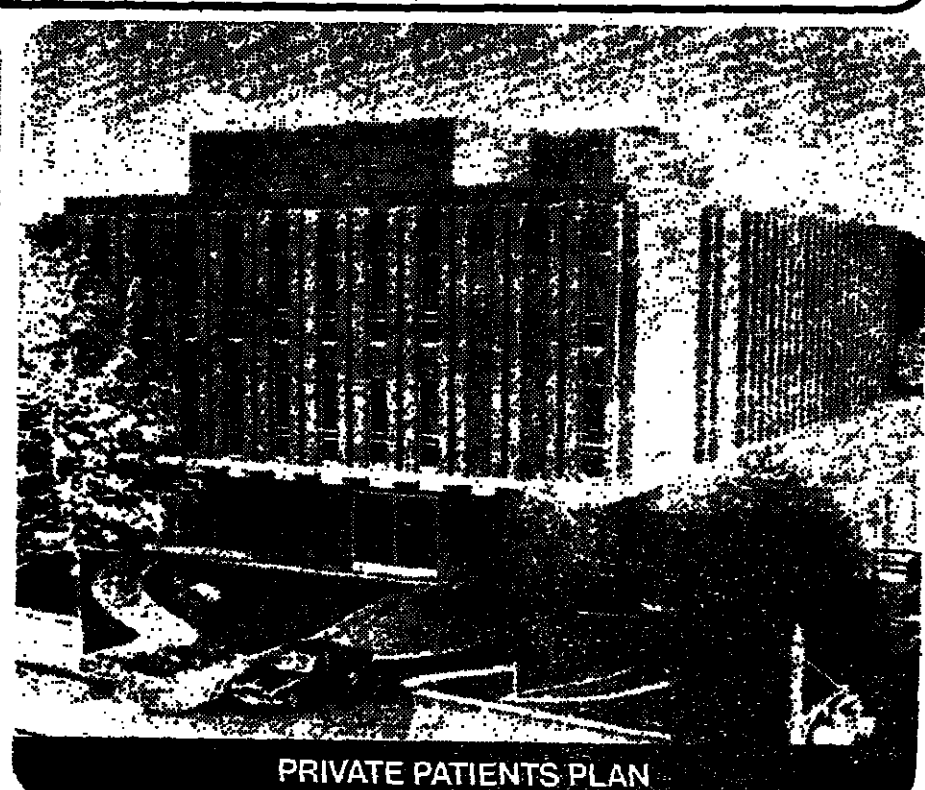
A survey had shown that in murder cases 55 per cent of the victims had consumed alcohol, and 24 per cent of the victims had consumed alcohol, and alcoholics were 70 times more likely to commit suicide than other members of the public.

Mr Geoffrey Isles, executive director of the Scottish Council on Alcoholism, said that today very many social drinkers were in the early stages of alcoholism.

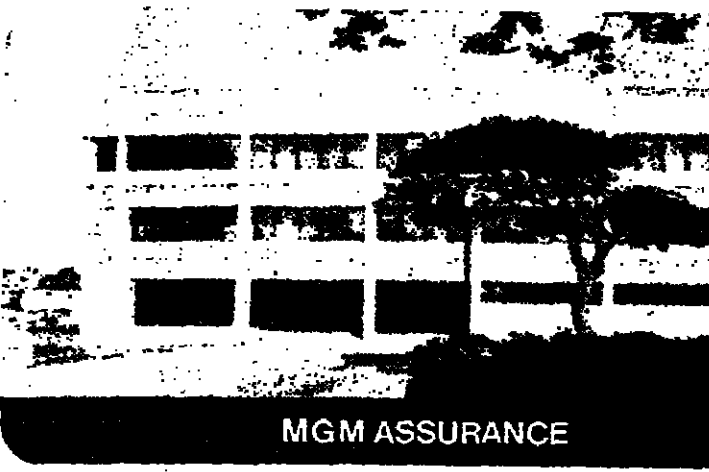
For them, efficient business starts with the building.



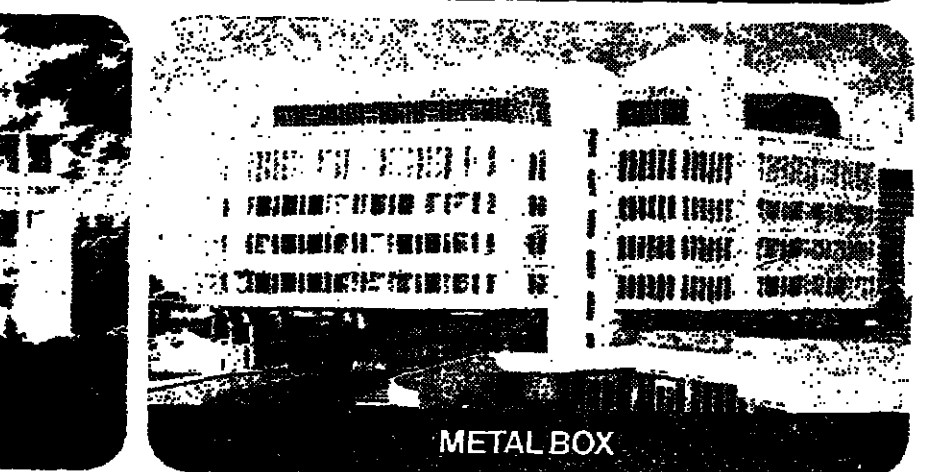
LONDON WEEKEND TELEVISION



PRIVATE PATIENTS PLAN



MGM ASSURANCE



METAL BOX

If you worked in any of these buildings, for any of these firms, you'd find it easy to work at your best.

You'd notice the comfortable, even climate, all through the year. The lighting, planned to suit working tasks. The overall air of quiet, businesslike efficiency.

That efficiency didn't just happen. It was planned, through early teamwork of the buildings' specialists—architects, services engineers, quantity surveyors—in the process called integrated environmental design.

This is the practical, professional way to achieve good environmental standards

with acceptable capital and running costs. And to evaluate precisely the energy-effectiveness of all your building decisions.

Ask your Electricity Board for the book on integrated design (ref. EC 2930). And ask them about applying its principles to your own building project. They have the know-how, experience, and specialised computer services to give you a balanced appraisal—both on the technical questions, and on the economics too.



THE ELECTRICITY COUNCIL, ENGLAND & WALES

Manage efficiently with Electricity

THE NEWS

Legal action may be taken after criticism of pit officials in Houghton Main disaster report

Mr John Kershaw

Coal Board undermen and depu- severely criticized on the disaster at Main colliery, South on June 12 last year, men were killed. The Mr J. Carver, Chief Mines and Quarries, the inquiry held at st August, was pub- er concludes that the was caused by the firedamp accum- heading left unven- nine days, and that likely cause of the is a faulty auxiliary fan. The fan was have produced open ine days before the he states.

er admitted yester- he had been enously" by munication at the le could not compre- 16 people could u the faulty fan] e manager."

He read a statement by Mr John Locke, Director General of the Health and Safety Executive, which said it was the executive's duty to consider whether there was evidence pointing to breaches of obligations serious enough to warrant legal proceedings.

The statement said: "If in the opinion of the executive's legal advisers there were grounds for instituting proceedings, summary proceedings would be instituted."

It is understood that a decision will be announced in seven to 10 days.

The report contains 28 recommendations, 12 of which involve changes in legislation affecting regulation, managers' responsibilities, management communication, sub-managerial responsibilities, dangerous apparatus, mine plans, precautions against inflammable dust, survival techniques, and rescue operations.

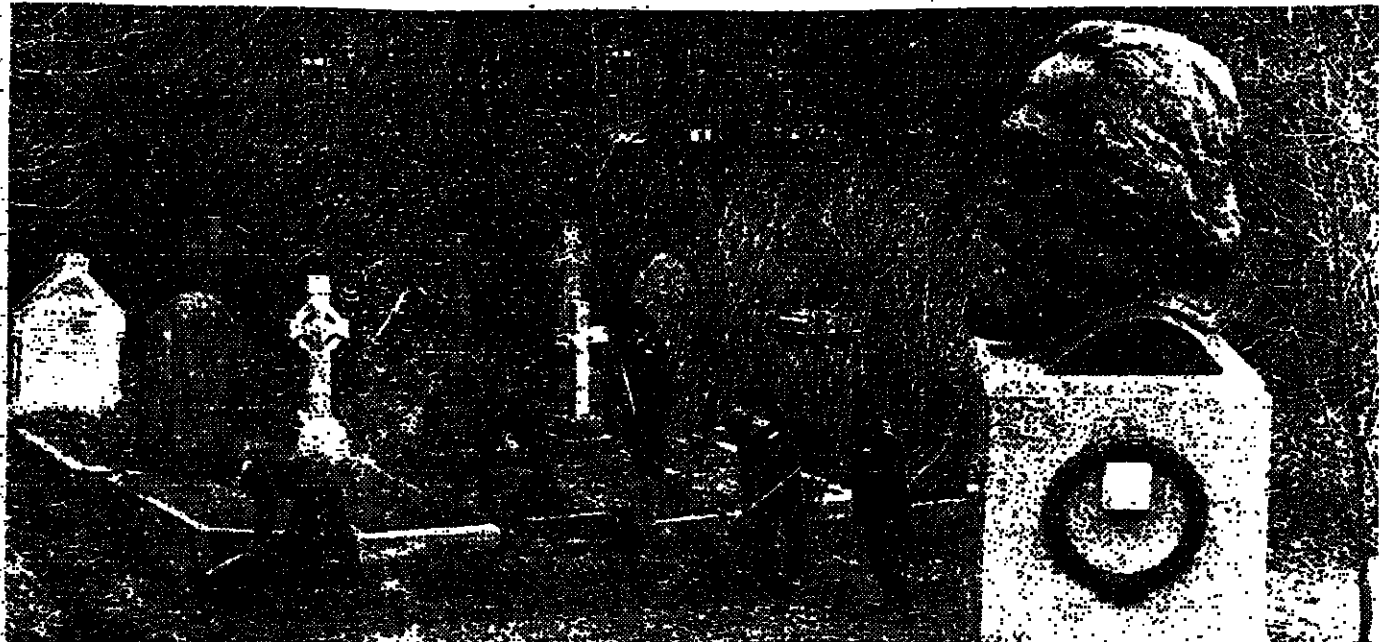
Mr Carver says the evidence indicated that the way in which some overmen and deputies carried out their statutory duties left much to be desired. Standards of management and control at that level were unsatisfactory, and the activities of these officials were not controlled properly."

One deputy signed reports for inspections that he had not carried out, and that was known to the acting overmen. Two seam overmen had failed to inspect all parts of the mine under their jurisdiction over a long period.

"One of these overmen was informed of the fan breakdown... and although aware that open sparking had taken place, he did not see fit to walk 50 yards to examine it. Having reported the matter to the engineering department, he took no further interest," the report says.

Rescue plans were six months out of date. The weakness of the electrical department appeared to be in its communication with the mechanical engineering department and with senior management. The management of the mechanical engineering department left much to be desired.

The report points to serious irregularities in deputies' statutory inspections and matters that apparently went unnoticed by the under-manager responsible.



Men on probation clearing undergrowth near Marx's tomb in Highgate Cemetery.

Cemetery cleared as probation experiment

By Peter Evans

A former burglar has made a point of cleaning George Elton's grave as part of work being done by men on probation who are clearing the undergrowth of Highgate cemetery.

The former burglar said: "I have a biography of George Elton at home. I made a point of finding out where her grave was; we did it in my lunch hour and cleared away the mess."

He is one of a group taking part in an experimental project conducted by the Inner London Probation and Aftercare Service as alternatives to more traditional punitive measures.

Cleaning the cemetery is one of three projects in London to ease into work young men whose histories of repeated offences and custodial sentences have rendered them unable to keep a job. The men are paid wages from a grant made to the probation service by the Urban Deprivation Unit of the Home Office.

At Kotherridge, men from the project are converting warehouses for use by craftsmen. In Kensington others are redecorating a flat to house deprived people.

The pilot scheme gives jobs

to people aged between 18 and 22 with poor work records over the previous two years and no job of more than three months' duration in the previous year.

Probation staff meet Camden council officials today to discuss how much it will pay towards the work and whether it can be continued.

The former burglar, who had been out of work since 1973, takes home about £24 a week, compared with the £8.60 he says he got "on the dole".

Men taking part in the projects say that staff, by being gentle with them at first, encourage them to get back into the work habit. "They aren't on your back the whole time", one said. "It's better than building skyscrapers," another said. A third added: "I worked in stores and was bored stiff watching the clock all day. This is different."

But they can be dismissed, a power that has been used. If they are late for work they may find that someone comes to fetch them.

A total of 22 men are working on the three projects and that number will increase to 35 or 40 in the next few months.

Museum peace plan

erial War Museum d its request to the :to divert the west- ss of Cambridge ford airfield, where s largest aviation being planned.

will cut across the main runway at Dux- i destroy its plane- iation museum, and a diversion for the brought a public use it would have 10-year delay in the the bypass as well increased noise

is Pym, Conservative Cambridgeshire, has y the Imperial War at it does not wish to by-pass and has drop the alternative asal.

Discrimination alleged in 'Times' advertisements

The Equal Opportunities Commission has been asked by the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex) to investigate the advertising policy of *The Times*.

Mr Raymond Edwards, assistant general secretary of Apex, has written to Miss Betty Lockwood, chairman of the commission, enclosing advertisements from *The Times* of January 14 containing such expressions as "super girl" and "fashion-conscious person with a size four foot".

Mr Edwards has previously complained to *The Times* about its advertising policy and the use of the headline "Women's Appointments". He said: "Although *The Times* promised to review its policy it does not appear to have done so. The policy seems to be to try to circumvent the Sex Discrimination Act."

Apparently *The Times* feels it is not breaking the law by advertising for a super girl or placing advertisements under the heading "Pour la femme". This attitude is against public policy as well as the law. Other newspapers appear content to comply with the Act. *The Times* has sought to avoid the law by such devices as using the French language.

Mr Brian Wexham, telephone sales manager of *The Times*, said: "We got rid of 'Women's Appointments' six months ago. People ring up saying we have contravened the Act, but they go away with a flea in their ear when we say the advertiser employs fewer than six people, or the advertisement is for an overseas appointment and therefore exempt."

"Expressions such as 'Pour la femme' are all right where something is specifically for women, such as women's clothes. *The Times* is one of the newspapers that would come under close scrutiny and we have taken the utmost care."

The advertisement asking for a "super girl" was placed by Linroy Fashions Ltd, of Langham Street, Westminster, which is selling agent for a French clothing manufacturer and a Swedish swimwear producer. Miss Mary Satchell, sales manager, said: "We employ four people and are therefore exempt from the Act."

Children march to save their school

More than a hundred children arrived in London by coach yesterday in an attempt to prevent the closure of their secondary school in the Hertfordshire village of Redbourn.

They went to the Department of Education and Science to deliver a petition, signed by 1,216 people, to Mr Mulley, the Secretary of State, and some took a letter addressed to Mr Wilson to Downing Street. Then all the children went to lobby local MPs at Westminster.

Redbourn school has declined in numbers from nearly four hundred in the late 1960s to 250, and Hertfordshire County Council is to apply for an order to close it in July, 1977.

Numbers have fallen, and may drop to 120 at the end of this summer term, because parents of half the children in Redbourn and all those in the neighbouring villages of Markyate and Flamstead prefer comprehensive schools.

MP's 21 questions on legal profession

By Our Legal Correspondent

In support of his call for a royal commission to investigate the legal profession, Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, has put down 21 questions for answer by the Attorney General in the Commons next Monday.

After a recent survey on amounts paid to counsel for legally aided criminal work, Mr Silkin, QC, the Attorney General, has been asked "if he will set up an external, independent body to review lawyers' fees".

Another question asks if the Attorney General "will take steps to end the monopoly of solicitors in the preparation of documents in the conveyance of land".

Mr Ashley also raises the issue of barristers' exclusive right to appear in the higher courts, and other aspects of the "monopoly of lawyers" in the courts.

He asks what consideration the Attorney General has given to abolishing the distinctions between barristers and solicitors and to unifying the legal profession.

Castle repairs freed of tax

The Inland Revenue has relented about a capital transfer tax threat which might have stopped the £1m restoration of Inveraray Castle, home of the Duke of Argyll, which was badly damaged by fire last September.

The duke said yesterday that the Inland Revenue had agreed that a fund used wholly and directly for restoration would not be subject to the tax.

Young Tories criticize Mrs Thatcher's speech

By Our Political Staff

The speech on defence by Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative leader, on Monday, was criticized yesterday as "a crude simplistic hawk approach" by Mr Tony Kerpel, chairman of the Young Conservatives.

Mr Kerpel said Mrs Thatcher's speech needed to be not just a random shot by the first salvo in a debate which Conservatives had to force to the forefront of political consciousness. He added that the strictures of Mr Julian Amery about the Conservative Front Bench's neglect of defence were a welcome echo of what the Young Conservatives had repeatedly said.

Swedish attack, page 7

In brief

Bruce Forsyth 'top personality'

Mr Bruce Forsyth was named "Show Business Personality of 1975" at the annual awards luncheon in London yesterday of the Variety Club of Great Britain.

The other awards were: Film actor, Mr Robert Shaw; film actress, Miss Glenda Jackson; stage actress, Miss Helen Mirren; joint BBC television personalities, Mr John Cleese and Miss Esther Rantzen, independent television personality, Mr Gordon Jackson; playwright, Mr Simon Gray; BBC radio personality, Mr David Jacobs; most promising artiste, Miss Lisa Harrow; special award, Mr Max Wall.

Chief executive post may go

St Helens Borough Council has been recommended to scrap the post of chief executive, and save more than £10,000 a year. Its policy and resources committee decided, after the retirement at the end of March, of Mr Tom Taylor, aged 63, as chief executive, to replace him with a town clerk who would assume his duties, too.

The committee chose Mr Brian Lacey, aged 49, legal and administration director, as the new town clerk.

The committee's decision goes before the council next Wednesday.

Airport man jailed

Helmut Reinz, aged 50, of Station Road, Hayes, Middlesex, a baggage handler at Heathrow airport, was sentenced at Middlesex Crown Court yesterday to a total of 12 months' imprisonment, for theft.

Lord Jermyn accused

Lord Jermyn, aged 21, of Ickworth, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, is to appear in court on March 19 on a drink and driving charge.

M1 observation points

Observation points are being built for police along the M1 in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire to help to deter speeding and to save the patrol of patrol cars.

Guests rescued

Staff and firemen saved 20 guests when fire broke out at the Boston Hall Hotel, Southend, early yesterday.

Widow dies in fire

Mrs Mary Ann Mackereth, aged 75, a widow, was burnt to death early yesterday when fire damaged her home at Ingmire Lodge, near Sedburgh, Cumbria.

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Senior Gonzales: "Madrid" cannot maintain policy of little steps"

socialist party (PSOE), today forecast some very difficult and confused months ahead. It was seen in a power struggle between the Government and opposition forces.

At a press conference here on his way home from the meeting of the ministers ahead, he said that in Helsinki, Denmark he advised EEC foreign ministers to deal cautiously with Spain. As for reopening communist negotiations, it would be better to "wait and see what happens in the coming months".

Senior Gonzales, whose party, together with the communist-controlled Democratic Junta, was the victor in the 1977 democratic elections in Madrid, maintained it had been a success in spite of the police intervention. "It has shown very clearly that the Government cannot permit the democratic movement to lose its liberties," he declared.

Senior Gonzales agreed that there had been social and political changes since General Franco's death and less police brutality. But, he argued, it would not be possible for the Government to continue its "policy of little steps" while relying on the regime's dictatorial institutions.

From David Cross
Brussels, Jan 21

The Belgian Government today announced swinging penalties for anyone refusing to sell potatoes at prices it fixed last week. The decision is designed to relieve the shop shortages and black-marketeering which have followed the wholesale and retail price freezes.

The penalties range from fines of between 4,000 francs (about £50) and 40m francs (about £500,000) to prison sentences of between one month and five years.

The maximum penalties are particularly severe because the Government has invoked a 1945 law which was intended to scare off profiteers during the latter stages of the Second World War.

But the Belgian court today is likely to act as harshly as the law permits.

The new measure affects all Belgian suppliers of potatoes, including producers, wholesalers and retailers. It will be applied to those who are stockpiling them or refusing to sell them at the recommended maximum wholesale price of 8 francs a kilo (about 5p a lb) or retail price of 10 francs a kilo (about 6p a lb).

Ferdinand Herman, the Minister for Economic Affairs, said last night that if potatoes do not reappear in the shops at the Government's recommended prices within the next few days he will act to requisition Belgian stock.

Since the introduction of the price controls there has almost been no potatoes in Belgium. Wives to buy potatoes at reasonable prices. Most shops and supermarkets have either completely run out or are selling under the counter at prices of up to 20 francs a kilo (about 12p a lb).

The general rise in prices was originally caused by a 15 per cent shortfall in the Belgian crop and large export sales to the Netherlands.

Street-corner chip stalls have raised their prices by as much as 25 per cent.

From Gretel Spitzer
Berlin, Jan 21

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, emphasized the part that Berlin had played in the security of the West and in the policy of détente when he spoke at Charlottenburg Castle to a group arriving for a 24-hour visit.

The Berlin Wall, tragic example of the division of the city, was an ever-present reminder that immense progress was still required before the city could be said to have been finally established in Europe, he said.

Reaffirming the essential connection between the situation in Berlin and the security of Europe as a whole, Mr Callaghan said it was not possible for there to be tension in Berlin and relaxation elsewhere. "Nor is it possible for there to be relaxation in Berlin and tension in Europe and relaxation in Berlin. Your security and ours are inextricably bound together."

He therefore welcomed the conclusion of a package of agreements between the two German states last month that had the effect of further improving communications in and around the city.

He stressed that a military presence remained an important factor. "We recognize and

reaffirm that the allied military presence in Berlin is a vital guarantee of Berlin's continued freedom. For a generation they have played their part to assist your people to remain free.

Speaking of the Royal Regiment in Wales at the Royal Garrison in Berlin he mentioned its having been awarded the freedom of the city of Cardiff. A year ago he had been honoured to receive the same rare distinction. "So here we are together, the Royal Regiment in Wales and myself, both freedom of the city of Cardiff and both determined to maintain the rights of men and women in Berlin to remain free."

Herr Klaus Schütz, the Chief Burmester, said that Sir Callaghan the citizens of Berlin saw a personality who added decisively to their being able to live in accordance with their own free will. He gave an assurance that Berlin, in the limits of its capabilities, would continue to make its contribution to détente and understanding in central Europe.

After signing the Golden Book of Berlin, the Foreign Secretary was guest of honour at a dinner given at Hotel Schütz which was also attended by Sir Oliver Wright, the British Ambassador in Bonn.

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Jan 21

The Pope today described as incredible the occupation by feminists of Milan Cathedral on Saturday, which was organized to protest against the Vatican's document on sexual ethics.

Addressing his general audience, the Pope spoke of the incomprehension and difficulties which he had and understands that which the modern world reserves for expressions of "the true and complete values of life".

He went on: "You want an example? It was given us by an extremely sad and significant episode which the newspapers have been talking

about: that of the incorporeous and sacrilegious invasion by brawling people of Milan Cathedral, our celebrated cathedral on which the Madonna rises to heaven, the flying and exalting figure of the Virgin Mother of Christ, symbol of the triumph of the most holy woman, *species castitatis, ex forma virtutis*, as St Ambrose said.

"Why this incredible and deplorable demonstration? It is said, because the Church is against abortion, because the Church confirms its rules, but that is what they say."

The Vatican issued its document on sexual ethics last Thursday.

Correspondent
21
Paolo Grassi will not
be general administrator
of Scala unless the opera
house is positioned in the
music in the Government,
and measures are taken to
financial problems.
providing for state to
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own workers, co-
would resign.

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 21

Mr Ron Hayward, secretary-general of the British Labour Party, said here today that it was "technically simply not on" to introduce direct elections to the European Parliament in Britain by 1978. This is the date which EEC heads of government agreed to aim for when they met last December in Rome.

Speaking at a press conference of the Labour Party in Brussels with EEC officials, Mr Hayward suggested that Mr Wilson had given an over-optimistic estimate of the chances of meeting the 1978 target in his recent letter to Dr Dickson Mabon, the EEC secretary-general, on the European Movement in Britain.

The whole issue of direct elections was fraught with all kinds of difficulties, none of which had yet been thought through, Mr Hayward said.

There had been no proper study of the matter in the House of Commons or in the political parties, and the "back-room boys" would need to do a lot more homework.

Mr Hayward made it clear that he was not opposed to the principle of direct elections to the European Parliament, which he accepted as both desirable and inevitable. But he did "not see why we have to be rushed

into it". Hurriedly introduced, without adequate preparation, direct elections could do more harm than good.

Mr. Hayward said that next Wednesday the national executive committee of the Labour Party would be discussing the resolution calling on the Government to refrain from adopting a formal position on direct elections, at least until the whole matter had been debated at the Labour Party's annual conference in October.

If passed, the resolution could be embarrassing for Mr Wilson. In Rome, EEC heads of government accepted a commitment to give final approval to a convention providing for the introduction of direct elections in 1978 at their next meeting in Luxembourg, which is now planned for April 1 and 2.

Mr Hayward felt that drawing the boundaries of the constituencies to be represented by Members would likely to take much longer than the two years left to 1978.

Similar doubts about the proposed timetable for direct elections have been expressed in the past by Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, but recent events have made it more likely that he has treated 1978 as a realistic date to be aimed for, even though it might in the event prove unattainable.

Own Correspondent
an 21

wash sugar pro-
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preliminary talks in
representatives of the
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ner for development

side, made it clear the Commonwealth would be unable to grant Commonwealth producers larger increases than the 8 per cent it plans to give European growers.

For similar reasons, backward increases in the price of surplus oilseeds exporters will be surplused if Commonwealth producers are guaranteed a minimum price of much more than £160 a ton, as present world prices are about the same level.

World prices are likely to fall further if the Commonwealth production moves into surplus after last year's shortage.

One of the factors likely to hold down prices for Commonwealth suppliers is the need for a new refining mill, expected to be sited in the factories, mainly in Britain. The cost of this payment will probably have to come out of any higher price agreed to Commonwealth producers.

During the past year, Commonwealth producers have enjoyed a special price of about £260 a ton for most of their produce shipped to Britain.

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan. 21

M Daniel Vergne, a former financial director of the French record company, Phonogram, whose president was kidnapped on New Year's Eve with the demand for a heavy ransom, was charged today with complicity in the crime.

It was alleged that M Vergne had been involved in both plotting the kidnapping of M Louis Hazan and in the ransom negotiations.

After a week in captivity, M Hazan was freed by the police, who also collected the ransom money being paid over.

M Hazan was while taking a board meeting at the record company's office in Paris.

'CIA agents' listed

The Hague, Jan 21.—The left-wing weekly newspaper *Vrij Nederland* has named eight United States diplomats it says are CIA agents in Holland and West Germany.

Correspondent
Jan 21

Palme, the Swedish minister, has sharply criticised Mrs Thatcher, leader of the Conservative Party, over her policies, which he said would increase class inequality in Britain.

The Social Democratic leader, in his campaign for the last night, told a Stockholm throng that Mrs Thatcher's programme embraces the concept of "a society in which the best and the brightest are rewarded at the cost of the rest."

He made his comments using the theme that "strong forces" in Western society are responsible for the current economic problems.

Mr Goesta Bolman, the Swedish Conservative leader, had the same programme, he said. "I am a spokesman of a party today that Mr Palme was interfering in British domestic politics. He said Mr Palme was concerned by conservative ideas expressed by personalities such as Mrs Thatcher and Herr Strauss. He was a spokesman of the Christian Social Union leader."

The spokesman added that

Mr. Palme had studied with great interest the programme presented by Mrs. Thatcher at the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool last October. Mr. Palme also told the rally that he had known leaders of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) for 12 years. It was ridiculous to call them communists, he said. His government has been criticized by opposition leaders for providing development aid to Cuba, which has sent troops to Angola to support the MPLA in the civil war.

The next general elections are in September, and recent polls suggest that Mr. Palme, Prime Minister since 1969, faces a close contest.

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non-manual workers, full and part-time employees - the Act provides benefits for men and women at every job level and in every kind of job.

Some of these benefits will become effective in April. For example: procedures that employers and trade unions must follow in handling redundancies. Other provisions—such as remedies for unfair dismissal—will be introduced during the Summer. And some provisions will come into effect early in 1977. For example: anyone on short-time or lay-off will then be protected by guaranteed payments and a woman leaving to have a baby will be entitled to maternity pay.

This gradual phasing in of the Act is designed to help employers with any arrangements or adjustments they need to make. And, as the Act comes into operation,

that should mean a better and more productive working life for everyone.

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WEST EUROPE

Shooting breaks out in centre of Lisbon as strikers close shops

Lisbon, Jan. 21.—Shooting broke out between police and civilians in central Lisbon today causing one death and a number of serious injuries in an outbreak of violence that coincided with a strike by shop assistants. Hospital spokesmen said the gunfire killed a 26-year-old man and critically wounded a policeman. Several more people were injured.

The police said the shooting started when a policeman in Rossio Square tried to prevent picketers from closing a toy shop whose owner had refused to close.

"The first shots were fired in the air when a large group gathered around a policeman, accusing him of having pushed a pregnant woman and calling him a murderer," a police spokesman said.

Shopkeepers in the square said they saw both police and civilians firing in the confusion of the clash. "Everything was wild; people were running in all directions," one shopkeeper said.

The walk-out to demand higher wages was organized by a far left splinter group in spite of opposition from the National Union of Shop Employees. The group threatened to close stores forcibly if their call was not obeyed by shopkeepers.

This was the second time this month that a confrontation between police and civilians in Portugal led to gun battles. In the first, four demonstrators, including a West German student, were killed when a protest outside Cuscos prison, in Oporto, turned violent and the police opened fire on New Year's Day.—UPI

Michael Knipe writes from

Lisbon: Negotiations began today between the military leaders and the Socialist Party over revisions to be made in the pact which delineates the division of constitutional power. Before the end of the month the military are planning to have similar discussions with the other parties that won seats in last April's elections for an assembly to draft a constitution.

All political parties have already presented their own proposals for revisions to the pact, and received counter-proposals from the military that are known to be unacceptable in important respects.

The primary point at issue is the veto power which the military leaders wish to be retained in all important matters including the appointment of the Prime Minister by the Revolutionary Council, a military body that is not subject to normal democratic procedures. The Communist Party has contested the preliminary report of a military commission of inquiry into the abortive left-wing military uprising on November 25 which found the Communist Party to be heavily implicated in the plot.

The party issued a statement agreeing that it had had contacts with some of the rebel soldiers, but said these occurred before November 25 and were completely normal. It had had dealings with the extreme left, leftist civilian elements who joined the rising.

The party had defended a political and negotiated solution to the crisis persistently and given warnings against a split in the Armed Forces Movement, the state-

Strike by lawyers hits French courts

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Jan. 21.—A three-day lawyers' strike in protest against new procedures in divorce and other cases which began today seems to have been generally observed by members of the Paris Bar.

The list of provincial bars whose members have decided to follow suit is growing longer each day. Some of the provincial bars have decided to keep their members away from the courts for a week.

During the strike the lawyers will not plead except in cases concerning people in prison, or persons caught in the act. They are also not dealing with procedural matters or assisting in judicial examinations.

The Ministry of Justice, which seemed inclined earlier this week to sit back and allow the storm to pass over, appears to have opted for a trial of strength. It sent a circular to chief public prosecutors asking them to oppose the postponement of any case by reason of the strike, and to requisition lawyers to appear if the case warrants it.

The first president of the Court of Appeal has sent a note of guidance to the presidents of all Paris courts saying: "I leave to your conscience the choice of steps to be taken in the circumstances."

Civil cases were invariably adjourned. As for criminal ones, counsel had written to the presidents of courts asking for adjournment. Public prosecutors opposed these demands. But the presidents merely dealt with the interrogation of witnesses and the examination of the accused, and adjourned the cases for a week or a fortnight.

OVERSEAS



The survivors: Señor Melde Barreto Leon (left) and Señor Epifanio Padromo Lopez describe their ordeal to journalists in Okinawa yesterday.

Survivors from ore carrier vow never to go to sea again

Kadena Base, Okinawa, Jan. 21.—Two Spanish seamen, the sole survivors from the crew of 32 of the Norwegian super-tanker Barge Istra which vanished in the western Pacific, tonight swore never to go to sea again.

Señor Epifanio Padromo Lopez, aged 37, a father of nine with a new-born son he has not yet seen, said: "I would prefer to go begging before I go back to a ship." He and Señor Melde Barreto Leon, aged 41, were giving their first full account at an American forces base of the fate of the 227,556-ton ore and oil carrier which disappeared without trace three weeks ago.

The two men, both from Tenerife in the Canary Islands, told of three explosions, one of which almost capsized the ship. Señor Lopez said he was on deck at the time fully clothed but the explosion ripped off everything but his undershirt.

Then their 19 long days of misery began, adrift on a life raft, eating raw fish and drinking rainwater—praying, they said, for a miracle or an angel to save them.

Officials at the rescue centre at Kadena tonight called off a search for further survivors after hearing their story. The Barge Istra was last heard from on December 29 southwest of

Mindanao island in the Philippines while on a voyage from Brazil to Japan.

The two seamen said they were in a group of four scraping paint at the bow of the ship at about 4.45 p.m. on December 30 when they heard something resembling a rush of air, followed immediately by an explosion.

Speaking through an interpreter, they told a press conference how two more explosions shook the ship, sending it to the bottom within about three minutes. Escaping from the whirlpool as the ship went down, they scrambled into a life raft, it contained ration and water for 10 days and when these ran out they depended on what they could catch.

Twice they spotted ships as they drifted across the Pacific but it was not until three days ago that a Japanese tuna fishing vessel took them on board.

The two explained how the second explosion, though apparently smaller than the first, seemed to open the ship and almost capsized it. They had finished untying the raft when there was a third explosion on the starboard side as the ship sank.

Señor Lopez said: "I was hanging on mid water was on my feet and the next thing I

remember is being in a whirlpool." That was the last thing he recalled until he revived on the raft.

Señor Leon, father of three girls and a boy, also remembered being sucked into a whirlpool. When he surfaced there was nothing to be seen of the ship but debris.

He pulled Señor Lopez onto the raft and revived him with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. He thought: "Now I have a friend."

The raft was so low in the water that being wet was a constant chore. At night they were struck by cold. They caught fish on a line in the survival kit and rainwater in a canvas sheet.

After rescue Señor Lopez was so overcome he could hardly eat, but Señor Leon "ate enough for the two of them". Señor Lopez, who sat in a hospital wheelchair with bandaged legs, and his companion were earlier examined by an American Air Force doctor who pronounced them in good shape considering their ordeal. Each lost about 22lb.

Mr Strang Lund, a Norwegian lawyer representing the ship's owners, vetted the questions put to the survivors and refused to allow them to reply about possibilities of sabotage.—Reuter, AP and UPI.

17 years jail for Briton in Greek drugs case

From Our Correspondent

Athens, Jan. 21.—David Howard, aged 29, a bank clerk from Scotland, was sentenced to a total of 80 years imprisonment by the Athens Criminal Court early today for breaking the Greek laws on narcotics. The court ruled that he will serve 17 years in jail, the longest sentence imposed on a Briton here on such charges. About 20 British passport holders are in Greek prisons for offences relating to narcotics.

The same court sentenced Mr Howard's American sister-in-law, Juliet Stautner, aged 24, to 12 years, and an Austrian friend, Christian Schluder, also aged 24, to 10 years. All three revoked their confessions to the court claiming that they had been obtained under duress.

Mr Howard was arrested last year in his house on the Aegean island of Syros off the Turkish coast. He had lived there since 1973, ostensibly for medical reasons, with his American wife and their son, now aged four. The police found 200g of hashish in the house.

Earlier, Piraeus customs officers had arrested Miss Stautner and Herr Schluder on arrival from Syros by boat. Herr Schluder's suitcase was found to contain 150g of cannabis.

According to the indictment,

the defendants confessed that they had taken delivery of 500g of hashish from an American named Michael Plant, who had bought it in Turkey and ferried it across to Syros in his yacht. The yacht had since been discovered and impounded in the island of Spetsai, but the American had fled the country. Charges are pending.

The defendants told the court last night that their confessions, except as related to the 150g of narcotics found in the suitcase, were false. They had been obtained by their interrogators under psychological pressure and the promise that if they confessed they would be acquitted.

At 1 a.m. today the tribunal, consisting of four judges and three jurors, found Mr Howard guilty on nine counts of buying, transporting, importing, possessing and exporting various quantities of cannabis. It imposed a 10-year sentence on each of the seven counts and added two sentences of seven and three years, passing a composite term of 17 years imprisonment.

Korydallos prison near Piraeus. Mr Eleftherios Vourvachis and Mr Nikolaos Galedakis, who defended the three, said that since there was no appeal they proposed to apply to the Supreme Court for a retrial.

Reports of Syrian role in Lebanon worry Israelis

From Eric Marsden

Jerusalem, Jan. 21.—Government and military leaders here maintained a stoic calm today in the face of growing concern among politicians over reports of increased Syrian involvement in the Lebanese civil war. Attempts by several members in the Knesset to seek an urgent debate were frustrated, all motions being referred to the private forum of the foreign affairs and defence committee.

During a discussion on the Government's censorship proposals, a right-wing Likud member, Mr Moshe Nissim, strayed from the subject to call attention to "increased incursion of Palestinians in Lebanon" and urged Mr Rabin, the Prime Minister, to postpone his visit to the United States because of the gravity of the situation. He was called to order.

The latest warning on the threat of Syrian intervention has come from Lieutenant-General Mordechai Gur, the Chief of Staff, who yesterday toured the Lebanese border with Mr Shimon Peres, the Defence Minister, and found it quiet.

General Gur told a meeting of Jewish fund raisers today that the Israeli view was that Syria did not want to intervene directly in Lebanon. "If we know for sure that the Syrians are interfering in the battle,

then we shall have to reexamine our policy."

The chief of staff said that Israel had never demanded anything of Lebanon except that it remain militarily quiet. It was difficult to define who was fighting whom at present.

Confused reports from Lebanon claiming that further units of the Palestinian Liberation Army have crossed the border from Syria are being cautiously assessed. Tel Aviv sources said they had no information on additional crossings by PLA men and estimated the present strength of PLA troops in Lebanon at two battalions, or about 1,500 men.

These were believed to be fighting in the Zable and Tripoli areas and had been joined by part of the Yarmuk division of Al Fatah, which had moved from southern Lebanon. The sources said the total strength of the PLA was only about 3,000, organized into two divisions.

So long as the inflow from Syria is confined to the PLA it is unlikely that it will be regarded in Israel as requiring counter-action. Nor is it expected to change the internal balance drastically. Present estimates put the Christian forces' strength at 20,000 and that of the left-wing Muslims and Palestinian guerrillas at about 15,000.

£50,000m spending on defence proposed in Mr Ford's budget

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, Jan. 21.

President Ford proposes that the American defence budget should be increased to \$101,100m (£50,550m) in the fiscal year beginning next October 1. In the present fiscal year, defence expenditures are expected to come to \$92,800m.

Most of the increase of \$8,300m is accounted for by inflation. The Defence Department estimates that the real increase in this year's dollars is £1,900m. This is less of an increase than Dr James Schlesinger, the former Defence Secretary, wanted last year when the budget was being planned, but more than the Pentagon expected to get.

The new Defence Secretary, Mr Donald Rumsfeld, carries more weight with the President than did his predecessor, and managed to save more of his budget than did other ministers when Mr Ford demanded cuts of \$28,000m.

Estimates published at the beginning of this year of expenditures to be incurred in the following year are often wrong. The Pentagon calculated a year ago that national inflation would be at a rate of 9.5 per cent. In fact it is running now at 7 per cent, and the saving represents an additional \$2,000m for the Defence Department.

A further correction may be provided by Congress. The President proposes that Congress provides the money, or withholds it. It may insist on preserving some items the Pentagon wishes to cut and cutting some things the Pentagon wants.

The Pentagon wants to start production of the B1 bomber next year, increasing expenditures from \$650,000,000 to \$1,532,200,000. The B1 programme (three would be built in 1977) would employ 24,000 people and would, therefore be popular. On the other hand, it is a weapon whose utility is much debated and it has been much opposed, and will be fought through Congress. The B1 is a supersonic bomber designed to succeed the B52.

The Trident submarine will also be opposed. It is the successor to the Poseidon. The Pentagon wants to build the first one next year, spending \$1,261m compared with \$982m this year.

The President has made defence one of the main points of his campaign against Congress and his political rivals. He wants a defence establishment "second to none" and wants to increase the defence budget.

For 1977, if he has his way, defence will take 25.6 per cent of the federal budget and 5.4 per cent of the gross national product. This would compare with 24.8 per cent of the budget this year and 5.7 per cent of the gross national product.

The budget includes an item of \$22,600,000 for research in strengthening the wings of the C5 aircraft, the largest in the world and also one of the most expensive, which has faced more difficulties over the years. Research on the cruise missiles will continue.

American armed forces next year will number 2,101,000 men (the number of civilians will be reduced by 25,000 to 942,000) in 19 divisions, 42 tactical Air Force wings, 64 other Air squadrons, 13 aircraft carriers, 70 nuclear submarines (three more than this year) and 252 other warships. Sixteen ships, including the Trident and six new missile destroyers, the Aegis class, will be started next year.

In all, \$31,000m will be spent on new weapons next year and \$5,000m is set aside for military aid to other countries, chiefly Israel, but this is partly offset by arms sales abroad.

The budget proposed sharp cuts in spending on education and social services and an overall reduction in real terms in government expenditure. It will be seen widely as Mr Ford's campaign platform in this election year. It will almost certainly strengthen his position in the Republican Party, but it will lead to a series of confrontations in coming months between the Administration and the Democratic Party majority in Congress.

President Ford noted in his budget message to Congress that it "will get us on a course that not only leads to a balanced budget within three years, but also improves the prospects for the economy to stay on a growth path that we can sustain."

The budget envisages a 5.5 per cent rise in government spending to \$394,200m in a period when, according to the budget report, inflation is likely to make it difficult to control unemployment is unlikely to fall below 6.9 per cent. It will produce an estimated deficit of \$43,000m, compared to an estimated deficit this year of \$76,000m. The national debt is estimated at \$1,000,000,000,000. Off-budget spending items as well as the budget deficit, is seen as rising next year to \$719,500m from \$633,900m this year.

The new programme will primarily be attacked by Mr Ford's opponents because it involves severe cuts in a host of social programmes.

President Ford will probably fight a losing battle with the Democrats in Congress to maintain the proposed heavy cuts in social programmes. He will have to make ready use of his veto power, as he did 17 times last year, to restrain Congress from adding to government spending.

While the budget includes \$28,000m of tax cuts, these will primarily benefit middle income earners. A particularly controversial plan will be Mr Ford's proposal to cut spending on education, training, employment and related social services by \$2,300m to \$16,600m. It will take this sector's share of the total budget down to 4.2 per cent from 5.1 per cent and is the largest cut made in a decade. Staking all on austerity, page 21

Laker Airways appeals against flights suspension

By a Staff Reporter

Laker Airways yesterday lodged an appeal with the Canadian Transport Commission against its suspension of an air charter licence for 28 Laker flights from Canada during May.

The commission said on Tuesday that they were suspending the licence because charter rules were violated over a passenger list in 1973. Mr Frederick Laker, chairman of the airline and representative of the British High Commissioner saw the commission yesterday in Toronto.

The suspension does not affect passengers flying from Britain.

Pakistan MPs threatened with unseating

From Our Correspondent

Rawalpindi, Jan. 21.

The Pakistani election commission has issued notices to 12 Opposition members of the Senate and National Assembly to show cause why they should not be unseated in accordance with the fourth Constitutional Amendment Act.

The 12 threatened with losing their parliamentary membership belonged to the left-wing opposition National Awami Party, which was banned by the Government last February for its subversive activities. The Government's order was upheld by the full bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

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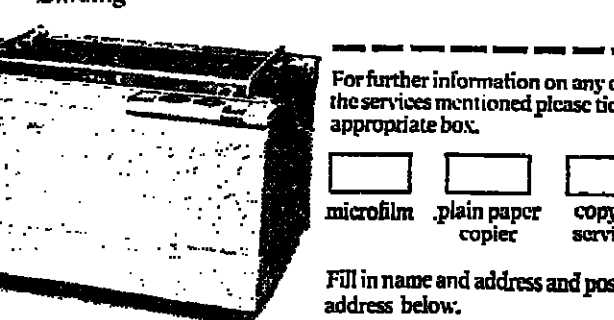
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RSEAS

Africans to stay in Angola 'until a female mate is achieved'

Kennedy, Jan 21

Angola is struggling to achieve a ceasefire in the civil war, according to sources here.

ng to the sources, the help establish the Total Independence Forces in control along the border with South-West Africa by guerrilla forces of the South-West African Peoples Organization (SWAPO).

In November, South African forces increased sharply. The MPLA produced in Lagos four South Africans captured deep inside Angola and further three at this month's Organiza-

tion of African Unity conference in Addis Ababa.

These pictures of teenage soldiers, manacled in a faraway African capital, have brought home suddenly and sharply to South Africans that they are deeply involved in the Angolan war.

It is expected there will be some intense emotional clashes on the issue when Parliament reassembles.

Reassembling, Jan 21—South Africa announced today that an Army officer was killed this week in an action believed to have taken place inside Angola.

The headquarters said only that the action took place in the operational area, a reference to the Angola-South-West Africa border region.

Lusaka: The Soviet backed Popular Movement (MPLA) claimed it had captured the important town of Ceta and opened up the road to Angola's southern capital of Huambo.

Kinshasa: The National Front (FNLA) has reverted to guerrilla operations in the north central area of Angola, an FNLA spokesman said here today.

Luanda: The MPLA today accused Zaire aircraft of bombing and strafing towns in eastern Angola. It said one aircraft was damaged by anti-aircraft fire and left trailing black smoke. Two people were killed in the raids.—Reuters, Agence France-Press and UPI.

US leader calls for to Unita and FNLA

Correspondent, Jan 21

ding black American today that the United States should exert pressure on the Soviet Union and South Africa to get out of Angola.

by Jim Jones, leader of the Peoples Temple for Racial Equality, who said that the United States must give arms to the National Liberation Front (FNLA) alliance to help the massive arms aid to the pro-Marxist movement (MPLA) by Unita.

is said: "The United States should put pressure on Russia. As for Africa, the Boers should be pulled out of Angola. It is to America's interest to see the Soviet Union and South Africa control their own states."

us, who said his own work for the black people, during a press conference after meeting with the United States leader, Dr. Jones said that the United States should come out and support the anti-apartheid movement but this

must not be with strings attached.

Asked whether he would recruit black American mercenaries for Unita, Dr. Jones said that he would appeal to black people in America to assist where they could. "I would not call them mercenaries but patriots," he said.

Two Zambian Members of Parliament today called on the Government to consider re-opening the border with Rhodesia and re-establishing economic links with South Africa.

The MPs, Mr Francis Chembe and Mr Peter Chanshi, said such a move would minimize the serious economic problems facing Zambia.

Mr Chembe said Zambia should learn from Malawi, which, although it opposed apartheid and colonialist policies, had not severed trade links with South Africa. He said Parliament that although Zambia claimed to have broken off trade links with South Africa, goods from that country still found their way into Zambia.

Mr Chanshi said that the Government should seriously consider re-opening the border with Rhodesia to reduce Zambia's economic problems resulting from the border closure early in 1973.

Western papers to go on sale in Russia

Moscow, Jan 21—Eighteen Western newspapers, including the Financial Times, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Die Presse of Vienna, Corriere della Sera and Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, are to go on sale in the Soviet Union this year, Tass said yesterday.

Mr Yevgeny Prokofyev, head of the Soviet agency for distribution of periodicals, told Tass that the move was an indication of Soviet compliance with the decision of the Helsinki security conference. Soviet officials claim that several Western newspapers can already be purchased in the Soviet Union, including Le Monde, The Times and the International Herald Tribune, of Paris. Yet tourists who try to buy these generally can only Western communist newspapers such as the Morning Star, L'Humanité or Unita.—UPI.

Christie in Communist press

Correspondent, Jan 21

re Dame Agatha Christie has been denounced in a communist press running-dog for "the powerful".

re and curious anti-Communist in the party's ally, the King of the South, to have "described" the lower classes of society but never as "social causes".

paper's film critic in her book Witness to Prosecution, she is the "best people".

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Correspondent, Jan 21

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White officials can work but not live in 'black' town Zulu homeland moves its capital

From Jerome Caminade, Ulundi, Jan 21

The seat of the Government of KwaZulu, the Zulu homeland, is being moved from Nongoma to Ulundi, near the site of the battlefield where British forces finally defeated the Zulus in July, 1879.

From about the end of this month the business of KwaZulu will be conducted within a mile or two of a large monument topped by a dome, which bears not only a plaque naming the few British who died at Ulundi but also an inscription in memory of the 1,000 or more Zulus who died there.

It reads: "In memory of the brave warriors who fell here in 1879 in defence of the old Zulu border."

New houses and small offices have been laid out in a settlement on the green plain above the White Umfolozi river, across which General Lord Chelmsford and his army

toiled. But though both blacks and whites will work at Ulundi, only blacks will be allowed to live there.

All the white officials who advise the KwaZulu Executive Council will live at Melmoth, 25 miles to the south. Every morning at 6.45 am they will travel by bus to Ulundi and every afternoon at 4.15 pm they will begin the one-hour journey back to Melmoth.

Ulundi is a "black" town. Though Nongoma, 35 miles to the north, has been the seat of the limited KwaZulu Government, it is still officially a "white" town, so South African advisers could live there.

"Isn't it silly?" asked Chief Gatsba Buthelezi, the Chief



Chief Gatsba Buthelezi: "Pretoria would not listen."

Executive Council of KwaZulu, when I discussed the move with him yesterday. "We offered to let them live with us at Ulundi, but Pretoria would not listen."

There are six departments in the KwaZulu administration and hitherto these have been divided between Nongoma and Pietermaritzburg. Now all are concentrated at Ulundi.

Nongoma had its last meeting of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly this week. It had been called to consider Chief Buthelezi's attempts to stamp out any political moves by, or in the name of King Goodwill Zwelidini. The King, a slim young bearded figure

in a brown suit, was invited to be present, and at the end of a long day he signed a declaration drafted by Chief Buthelezi.

In this King Goodwill undertook to abstain from politics and from any action or words which could be interpreted as participation in politics. Chief Buthelezi dominated the proceedings and for the moment any opposition is overborne.

Chief Buthelezi, in a light summer suit, escorted the King into the college hall where the Assembly sat, and led the members in giving a deep-throated royal salute. Everyone was in European dress.

The proceedings had the trimmings of Western parliamentary practice but Zulu individuality soon showed itself. The top of the mace was a gold-coloured Zulu hut, under it in turn were symbolic objects such as Zulu weapons and a beer pot.

The Speaker or chairman, a chief with a large bushy moustache, found his new responsibilities difficult. When Chief Maphumula, a young man who has tried to form a new party named without royal assent after the King's own regiment, was called to speak, he was

barred on points of order and then left the hall.

On Chief Buthelezi's insistence the Sergeant at Arms was sent after him to fetch him back to make further explanations. He reappeared in his green suit, complaining that he had been jostled by others besides the Sergeant at Arms outside. After more exchanges with the Chair, he resumed his seat unrepentant.

In brief

Chile tortures condemned

Buenos Aires, Jan 21.—Former President Eduardo Frei has published a book criticizing Chile's right-wing military regime. A copy was obtained here by United Press International.

In it, he speaks of the persecution of so many Chileans and he says that "torture can never be permitted. The country cannot live permanently under an unconstitutional regime."

New-style Albania

Vienna, Jan 21.—Albania is to become a "Socialist People's Republic" instead of a "People's Republic", according to the draft of a new constitution which replaces the Soviet-style constitution dating from 1946.

5,000 in death riot

Maras, Turkey, Jan 21.—The arrest of two left-wing teachers led to a riot between leftists and rightists in which at least 5,000 people used arms. One person died and scores were injured.

Nixon tax inquiry

Washington, Jan 21.—The internal revenue service has reopened its investigation of former President Nixon's tax returns to determine if he should be prosecuted for fraud.

Agency merger agreed

Delhi, Jan 21.—All four Indian news agencies have supported the Government's plan for a single national wire service.

McGovern praise for Hanoi after visit

Hanoi, Jan 21.—Senator George McGovern, the Democratic Party candidate for President of the United States in 1972, who has just paid a five-day visit to North and South Vietnam, has said he is very favourably impressed by the use of the country in making of foreign aid. He said that he had been struck by the lack of resentment of the Vietnamese leaders and people towards the United States.

Before his departure for home, Senator McGovern told journalists in Hanoi that Vietnam was using foreign aid "very efficiently and wisely", more so than other countries. The Vietnamese nation "works hard and is disciplined and intelligent. It gets the maximum out of what it has. You can have confidence in it."

Asked about possible American help in the reconstruction of Vietnam provided for in the Paris agreement, the senator said Vietnam was "an attractive place to provide aid for an investment programme."

Mr McGovern, who met Mr Pham Van Dong, the Prime Minister, during his visit, admitted that the United States Congress was not very favourable to the idea of making payments "to heal the wounds of war". He emphasized that America was now plagued by a recession and the situation was not as it was just after the Second World War.

His strongest impression had been "meeting here with informed people who know that the war was led by an Administration, notably that of Nixon, and not by the American people."

Hongkong, Jan 21.—Saigon reverted from military to civilian rule today. Saigon radio announced in a broadcast monitored here. The handover ceremony took place at the Palace of Independence and was presided over by General Tran Van Tra, chief of the military administrative committee which has governed the city since the end of the war last April.—Agence France-Press.

Air crash damages hearing

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Jan 21

Opening statements have been made in Los Angeles in a trial held to assess the damages due to victims of the crash outside Paris in 1974 of a DC10 belonging to Turkish Airlines, when 346 people were killed. It was the world's worst air disaster.

The court must decide on the amount to be awarded to the two small daughters of Mr and Mrs David Kween, who died in the crash. Mr Kween was British and his wife American.

This is the first of these cases to be brought to court. The object will not be to decide on liability for the accident.

This week's case will, be watched closely by the other plaintiffs said to be more than 1,000. Most of them have so far not agreed to out-of-court settlements.

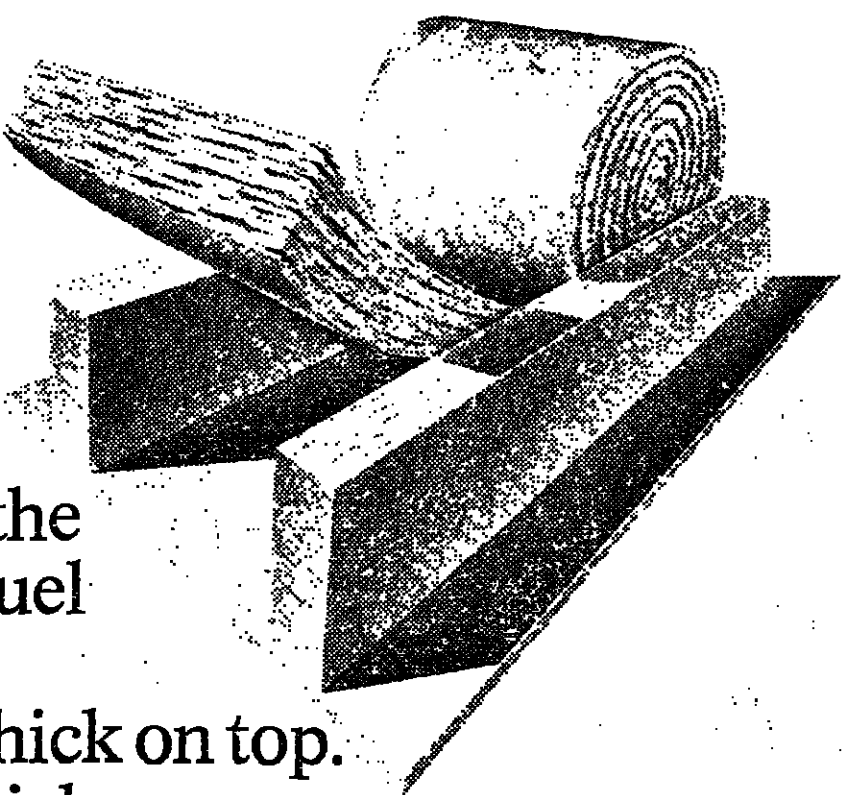
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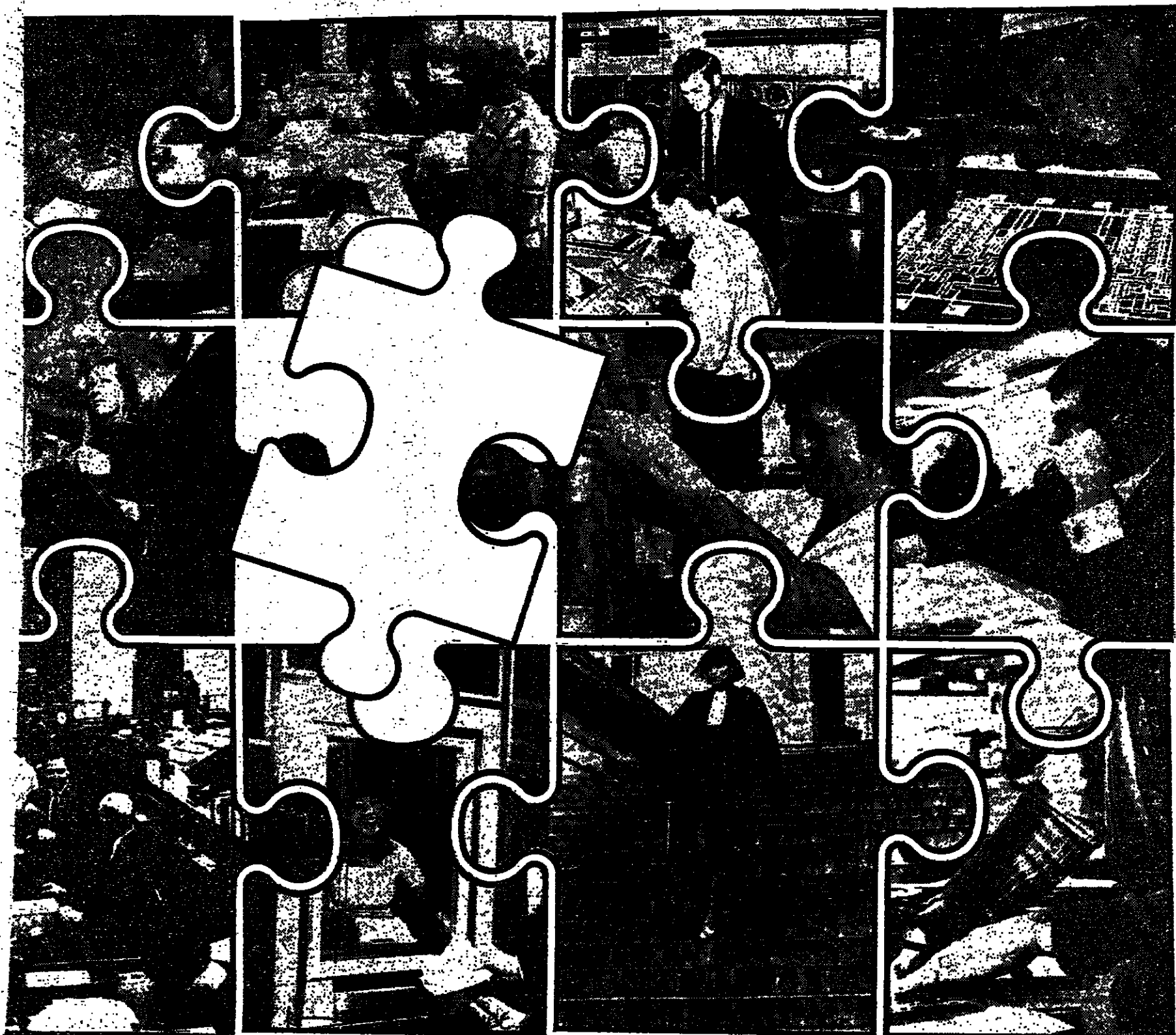
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Finance Trainees-Graduates

The Willis, Faber & Dumas Group of Companies is one of the leading organisations in the International Insurance and Re-insurance Market handling transactions in excess of £500 million per annum. The finance and accounting function for the main operating companies is based at its new office in Ipswich, the Group finance and accounting function is based at its Head Office in the City.

The Company is prepared to offer comprehensive finance training to a limited number of graduates or graduate standard applicants who are (or who intend) studying for a professional accountancy qualification (e.g. ACCA or ACMA). The training period, which is expected to be some 3-5 years, will be aligned wherever possible to examination subjects under

current study and will be based in Ipswich with certain periods spent in the City.

Entry to and continuing membership of the Scheme will demand a high standard of personal performance and dedication. Successful completion of the course will lead to excellent career prospects within the Group. Salaries (regularly reviewed) and fringe benefits are those you would associate with a major company.

Please write or telephone for an application form to:

F. B. A. Price,
Staff Manager,
Willis, Faber & Dumas
Limited,
16 Friars Street,
Ipswich,
Telephone: Ipswich (0473)
217911, Ext. 3569.

WF&D

A better job market for graduates

In the beastly world of high unemployment Britain's 65,000 final year students at universities and polytechnics are the lions of the jungle. They can prey and to some extent benefit on the misfortunes of others less qualified. Employers find that the job market is running their way and are more encouraged to pick the best available, taking graduate recruits where before they would have had to be content with school leavers with A levels. The A level holders take jobs that would otherwise have gone to O level holders and so on down the line.

Graduates are again going to find that 1976, like 1975, is not going to be such a daunting year. Despite cuts and economies, opportunities for graduates in the private sector of industry and commerce are holding fast. By and large most employers have learnt how disastrous it was to cut back on graduate recruitment at the first signs of a recession in 1971.

The result was that many graduates were deterred from even thinking of a career in industry. It was a time anyway when the swing against the sciences and to less vocational subjects such as Sociology was in full sway at colleges and universities. Now there are signs of a swing back to the Sciences, but college careers officers still report a reluctance among many students to choose a career in industry.

Instead the graduates have turned increasingly to careers in local government and the public services generally. The reorganisation of local government required for a period of expansion of jobs and

a need with larger units for graduates. The public services could then be providing attractive starting rates for young people with degrees. At the end of last year the Central Services Unit which links college careers services reported that sometimes the salaries were between £200 and £1,000 higher than the pay a new graduate could expect from industry.

The real difference this year is that because of the cutbacks in public expenditure, the new graduate is going to find it much tougher to enter the public service. The Post Office has slashed its planned graduate recruitment target from about 900 to 30. It looks as if it will be typical of other public services, but it is a sure sign of the way the wind is blowing.

Limited opportunities in the public services are likely to be compensated to some extent by increased opportunities for graduates in professions and businesses which have not up to now been traditional graduate employers. These opportunities occur in chartered accountancy, banking, insurance, the solicitors' branch of the Law, teaching (fast becoming a graduate-only profession), the hotel trade, the retail industries and on the shop floor as shop stewards and foremen.

At the end of last year there was probably a hard core of about 2,000 or one twentieth of final year graduates unemployed. But there were still jobs for graduates going. Engineering firms were still looking for qualified personnel in an expansion of jobs and

accountants were in demand, and some public services like the police and fire services were anxious to recruit graduates. It was only that the remaining graduates without jobs were the square pegs that did not fit into the round holes.

Careers officers have this advice for graduates: "There are plenty of jobs around, but do not leave job hunting until the summer when it could be too late. Employers are considering applications now and many could have filled up their vacancies by May."

Graduates will get jobs if they are serious about looking widely for jobs and do not just concentrate on their first choices. As well as the bulletin put out by the Central Services Unit and sent to college careers officers there are two other useful sources of reference on the jobs available. GO: The Compendium of Graduate Opportunities in 1976 which is published by New Opportunity Press, 76 St James's Lane, London N10 3DF. This has nearly 800,000 words of advice and is free from the careers advisers of the public can buy it for £5.50.

The other reference work is DOG: Directory of Opportunities for Graduates also available from careers officers and published by Stanmarket Publishing Ltd, 76 Dean St, London, W1A 1BU. Last and not least the starting salaries for graduates are ranging between £2,300 and £2,500 a year. About the same as a 21-year-old gas fitter earns after four years apprenticeship.

Tim Devlin

GRADUATES?

Have you heard about the Police Graduate Entry Scheme?

Your degree can ensure you a financially rewarding and socially worthwhile career—in Britain's police.

Graduates are needed to help deal with the increasingly complex problems of society, and the increasing sophistication of crime.

Promotion for the graduate is accelerated to give excellent prospects of achieving senior rank in a short time. After five years you could be earning as an Inspector £3,960 p.a. (£4,625 in London) with free accommodation or a rent allowance (maximum £420 to £980 depending on area).

Whether you are in your final year at university or have already graduated, you are eligible for the scheme up to the age of 30.

For full details, write or phone, Superintendent D. A. Mellor, B.A.L.R., Graduate Liaison Officer, Dept. 7/14, Horseshoe House, Dean Ryle Street, London, SW1P 2AW. Tel.: 01-211 6567.

Focus on
Non-secretarial
appointments
appears on
page 25

SUPERVISOR

We are a Management Services Company and offer a real opportunity in business management. We require an additional Supervisor for a South London location. The Supervisor will have a small team and responsibility for organizing the service activities of the office. Suitable applicants may have a background in supervision or sales, but must have drive, a sensitivity towards people, and the ability to organize, take decisions and see a job through.

£2,500 to £4,000, plus bonus (up to 25 per cent)
In the first instance telephone Richard Smith, Area Executive, on 01-540 9305

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concentrate exclusively in experienced office staff seeking PERMANENT jobs on a PART-TIME BASIS. We have many graduates with specialised skills, book-keepers and well-qualified secretaries on our register—and are always interested in meeting more. If we can help you to fill a vacancy or to find a job please ring—

Mrs Kay Sykes,
PART TIME CAREERS LTD,
10 Golden Square, London, W1R 3AF.
Tel.: 01-437 3103.

TORY COMMUNITY WORK

The Community Affairs team at Conservative Central Office seeks two more Youth Development Officers, one in London. The work demands personal initiative and drive. Salary, according to age and experience, up to £3,500.

Young people with relevant experience should apply to:
THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS,
CONSERVATIVE CENTRAL OFFICE,
32 SMITH SQUARE, LONDON SW1P 3RH.

Science student?

Take your BSc on £1474 a year—sponsored by the RAF.



If you are a first- or second-year undergraduate, or you took your Science Sixth A-levels in 1975, find out now about RAF University Cadships. You would live and work like any other undergraduate, though you'd be better off than most; and you'd have no employment problem. As a science graduate you could go on 'automatically' to be an RAF Engineer officer.

Within the specialisations of Mechanical or Electrical Engineering, an RAF career is perhaps the most varied you could wish for—and you would be in management right from the start.

You can pick up leaflets at your nearest RAF Careers Information Office—address in telephone book—or post this coupon. There's no obligation, no need to wait for A-level results.

To Group Captain H. E. Boothby, OBE, ADC, BA, RAF Officer Careers (SWQ1), London Road, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 4PZ. Please send me information about RAF University Cadships for prospective engineers. My surname and preferred qualifications are:

Name _____
Address _____
(Please type or print name because it will be used)
Date/1976 _____
RAF Officer ENGINEER



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British Leyland needs a strong management and professional team to compete effectively with the world's automotive manufacturers both at home and overseas. To ensure succession we maintain a high graduate intake and are looking for 300 recruits this year.

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Our training schemes and career planning are designed to provide rapid development as well as to meet the requirements of professional institutions. Collect our brochure from your Careers Advisory Service and discuss opportunities with our representatives when we visit your University or Polytechnic.

If you have difficulty in obtaining a brochure post the coupon to:

Manager, Graduate Recruitment,
British Leyland Limited, Leyland House,
174 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5AA.

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Name _____
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British Leyland

HONOURS GRADUATES WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO START YOUR CAREER



There are 750 Tax Offices all over the U.K. If you join the Inland Revenue as an Inspector of Taxes you can normally start work in the part of the country you favour. Your career path is carefully planned—later moves will ensure that you get experience of a wide variety of tax problems. The thorough training you receive will give you the ability to negotiate with all kinds of businessmen and their professional advisers on equal terms. During your career you could take charge of the tax affairs of an entire district with wide powers of discretion. You may also spend periods on more specialised aspects of taxation and acquire an enviable professional expertise—in itself a valuable career asset.

Qualifications: Under 22. A degree with honours—at least second-class honours—is normally required. Final year students may apply. If you start at 21, your salary should be over £4200 at 23, over £5600 at 25. By your mid 30s you should be earning over £9000 and by 40 you could be in a post which takes you to £11000. Salaries up to £465 higher in London. To find out more, and for an invitation to visit a Tax Inspector, write to: Civil Service Commission, Alencro Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB. Please quote: A/320/K

A CAREER THAT APPEALS TO REASON

مكتبة الامم

Educational

Engineering

Science

Technology

Computers

General

Support Software Specialist

THE JOB: To assist in maintaining and implementing systems to Support Software for the IIT 3200—a special-purpose computer used for switching applications—and to assist in installing new versions of the Support Software in computer centres and associated companies in Britain and Europe.

YOUR BACKGROUND: A degree or equivalent in Computer Science, Mathematics, Engineering, or a Scientific subject. Preferably a minimum of two years' experience in Support Software (operating systems, compilers, assemblers, peripheral handlers, utilities). Some experience of technical liaison with customers is also desirable.

REWARDS: The job carries an attractive salary, a high level of interest and the opportunity of European travel (including Paris, Rome, Madrid (some knowledge of French would be an advantage)). Also offer a comprehensive range of benefits including generous pension and relocation expenses where necessary.

LOCATION: STL is located in the pleasant countryside on the outskirts of Harlow, and our modern and well-planned laboratories provide excellent working and social facilities.

ACTION: Please write or telephone for an application form. Reference No. 116/75 to: Mrs. Allen Bridge, Standard Communication Laboratories Ltd., London Road, Harlow, Essex CM17 9NA. Tel: Harlow 29531, Ext. 491.

STL

SCIENTISTS and ENGINEERS would you like to teach?

If you have a degree in pure or applied science, engineering, technology or a subject or if you hold other qualifications which give you graduate status then you are eligible for employment with this Authority.

We intend to run an Induction Course for mature graduates and others with relevant qualifications beginning in September 1976 and lasting until July 1977. The course will take place at an ILEA College of Education and on successful completion will result in the Post Graduate Certificate of Education. The course will include a whole term of teaching practice in an ILEA comprehensive school.

If you are admitted to the course you will be given an appointment on our ordinary teaching staff from September 1976 and will be paid the appropriate salary for a qualified teacher whilst taking the course. On successful completion of the course, that is once you become a fully trained teacher, you will be offered a permanent appointment in our service and will be expected to work as a full-time teacher in an ILEA school for at least two further years.

During this period, we take into account previous teaching, industrial or commercial experience, so that for mature people starting salaries can be substantially above the minimum of the basic scale, (£2,489 p.a. to £4,056 p.a. £351 London Allowance).

If you are interested in applying for this course, please write for further details to: Education Officer, EO/TS2, County Hall, London SE1 7PB (including a addressed envelope) within two weeks of the date of this publication.

ilea INNER LONDON EDUCATION AUTHORITY

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS ENGINEERING ADVISER

The Institution wishes to set up an Advisory Service for continuing in-career training of engineers and invites applications for the post of Engineering Adviser service. The commencing salary will be £4,365 p.a.

The successful applicant will be a chartered engineer in the age range 40/50 with a background and standing to enable this person to discuss training and education with employers, academic institutions, senior engineers, and with students which provide courses, and to offer them advice on future needs.

The full applicant will control the maintenance of an Institution index of courses directed to advise members of the availability of suitable courses and to establish a list of monitoring.

The post will be based at the Institution Headquarters in London and will be supported by clerical staff there.

Outside London will be necessary.

In addition, and until the Advisory Service is established, other training duties with the graduate training programme within London and the Home Counties will be undertaken by the Engineering Adviser on a temporary basis. Salary will be £4,365 p.a. with c.v. to: Personnel Officer, Institution of Civil Engineers, Gt. George Street, Westminster, SW1P 3AA.

Marked "Staff in Confidence"

IITON TECHNIC LIMITED

Iiton Technic Limited is now a leading company in the field of manufacturing of electronic products. The company is a dynamic and growing organization and is looking for a person to join its team. The person should have a degree in electronics or a related subject and have experience in the design and development of electronic products. The person should also have experience in the management of a team and be able to work independently. The person should be able to communicate effectively and have a good understanding of the business. The person should be able to work in a team and be able to take initiative. The person should be able to work in a fast-paced environment and be able to meet deadlines. The person should be able to work in a team and be able to take initiative. The person should be able to work in a fast-paced environment and be able to meet deadlines.

FIELD SALES ENGINEERS
Sales Engineers are required to sell our products and services to potential customers. They will be responsible for identifying new business opportunities, developing sales strategies, and maintaining existing accounts. They will also be responsible for providing technical support to customers and for ensuring that all sales are made in accordance with company policy. The successful candidate will have a degree in electronics or a related subject and have experience in the design and development of electronic products. They will also have experience in the management of a team and be able to work independently. They will also have experience in the management of a team and be able to work independently.

CONTRACTS ENGINEERS
Contracts Engineers are required to manage the design and construction of electronic products. They will be responsible for ensuring that all products are designed and constructed in accordance with customer requirements and company policy. They will also be responsible for ensuring that all products are delivered on time and within budget. The successful candidate will have a degree in electronics or a related subject and have experience in the design and development of electronic products. They will also have experience in the management of a team and be able to work independently. They will also have experience in the management of a team and be able to work independently.

PROJECT ENGINEERS
Project Engineers are required to manage the design and construction of electronic products. They will be responsible for ensuring that all products are designed and constructed in accordance with customer requirements and company policy. They will also be responsible for ensuring that all products are delivered on time and within budget. The successful candidate will have a degree in electronics or a related subject and have experience in the design and development of electronic products. They will also have experience in the management of a team and be able to work independently. They will also have experience in the management of a team and be able to work independently.

DETAIL DRAUGHTSMAN/WOMAN
Detail Draughtsmen/Women are required to produce detailed drawings of electronic products. They will be responsible for ensuring that all drawings are accurate and complete. They will also be responsible for ensuring that all drawings are delivered on time and within budget. The successful candidate will have a degree in electronics or a related subject and have experience in the design and development of electronic products. They will also have experience in the management of a team and be able to work independently. They will also have experience in the management of a team and be able to work independently.

W. MONITON Technic Ltd
ACQUISITION DIVISION
House, 2nd Fl., Basingstoke, Hants. RG24 0PW.
Tel: Basingstoke (0256) 29633-5.

Pruning public employment

The public services have been one of the major employment growth sectors. Since 1960 the number of employees in local government has risen by an average annual rate of 3.5 to 4.0 per cent. There are now more than 2.5 million people employed in local government compared with 1.5 million 15 years ago.

The same is true about central government. It, too, has about a million people more working for it than in 1960 and taken together the public sector (Whitehall, public sector, and associated services) employs nearly a fifth of Britain's working population.

As unemployment rose in 1975 recruiting was still common. For instance, figures issued in October showed that there was a slight increase in the number of people working in local authorities in England and Wales as compared to the June figure. In the year to October 1, the number of civil servants rose by 32,000 to 719,000. This year, however, could be the last year for a decade in terms of new opportunities in the public services.

The Government is under increasing pressure to bring national expenditure under control and has said that at best there can be no increase in public authority expenditure. The first evidence of a reduction in employment came earlier this month (January) when it was announced that the number of civil servants had dropped to 693,000.

Local government is likely to be an area of extreme tension during 1976. With many local authority elections falling due in late spring, hard on the heels of the new rate demand, local authorities are looking for economies. Most are

operating a policy of recruiting only when a vacancy occurs due to retirement or resignation. Indeed there have been widespread fears of cuts in local authority employment and the National Association of Local Government Officers has gone as far as to warn that it will not cover gaps in staffing caused by cuts in expenditure.

It is unlikely that many authorities will go as far as the district council at Rother, Sussex, where earlier this month the chief executive and his aide were made redundant, but there is strong evidence that employment prospects in the local authority sector are under pressure. A survey conducted recently by the service group Manpower showed that in the three months to the end of March more than one in five local government employers expect to reduce staff levels through natural wastage. In surveys during 1975, Manpower found a similar break in the traditional pattern of local government employment stability. In the latest survey, however, only 6.3 per cent of local authorities said that they were planning recruitment this year.

Opportunities in education are also predicted to be no better than in 1975, itself a poor year. The time last year, however, was a time of great difficulty for the newly qualified seeking first appointments. In London where there was a permanent teacher shortage during the early 1970s there has been such a policy for the last two

years. The Inner London Education Authority is expecting to be able to offer fewer opportunities for college leavers this year because there are expected to be fewer resignations due to the better pay and conditions won by the London teachers over the last couple of years. In 1975 the IEA closed its books for applications in April and this year the situation is expected to be as bad. For the record number of newly qualified teachers leaving college this summer employment prospects will be the worst for many years.

Central government expects to employ about 10,000 more people by early next year and a Civil Service study at the end of last year (1975) concluded that significant reductions in numbers would be impossible without the taking of major political decisions about defence capability, the levels of taxation and the numbers entitled to social security benefits. However the pressure on Whitehall to curb unnecessary expenditure will again mean fewer recruitment opportunities this year than is usual.

In general the policy will be "no recruitment except as replacements" although there will be sectors which will grow or decline as changes in government policy dictate. Any defence cuts for instance would result in the surplus civil servants being transferred to a department increasing in scope (the National Enterprise Board for instance) rather than in redundancies. For the outsider, however, there will be more competition to join the civil service in this year of stringency than has been the case recently.

Ron Emley

THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS TRAINING OFFICER

The Institution invites applications for the post of a Training Officer for the northern half of the United Kingdom. The officer will be based in Glasgow with responsibilities covering Scotland, Northern Ireland and the North of England. The commencing salary will be £4,365 p.a.

The successful applicant will be a Chartered Civil Engineer of good standing in the age range 40/50 and will have had experience in the supervision of the practical training of young persons in the engineering field; and must have had a broad educational background and be accustomed to dealing with, and be accepted by, the senior engineers of participating firms.

The holder will be responsible for monitoring the training of graduate and undergraduate engineers working under the Institution training scheme within the area, and should be able to advise firms and individual trainees on their needs and problems. The work will entail travel, including absences from Glasgow, and it cannot be too highly stressed that the main responsibility is to visit firms and meet trainees at least once each year.

Applications with c.v. to: Personnel Officer, Institution of Civil Engineers, Gt. George Street, Westminster, SW1P 3AA. Marked "Staff in Confidence".



Riddlesworth Hall
Nr. Diss, Norfolk

Head

The present Head of the school, Miss Elisabeth Ridsdale, is retiring at the end of the year and the Governors are seeking a successor.

Riddlesworth Hall is an independent preparatory school for girls.

There are at present 135 boarders aged 7-13 years. The school is situated in a country house in a large estate on the Norfolk/Suffolk boundary.

The starting salary is negotiable but will be not less than £5,000 p.a. A car and free accommodation within the school will be provided.

Intending applicants, whether single or married, should write for particulars to The Secretary to the Governors, Riddlesworth Hall, c/o The Allied Schools, 62/63 High Street, Banbury, Oxon. Closing date for applications is 11th February.

KINGSTON REGIONAL MANAGEMENT CENTRE KINGSTON POLYTECHNIC School of Management MANAGEMENT EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT STAFF Appointments 1976

Managerial Accountancy and Finance
Operations Management and Quantitative Methods
Behavioural Science and Industrial Relations
Business Policy and Business Control

Confidential enquiries will be welcomed from experienced, MBA/A, qualified accountants and graduates with a minimum of 3 years' experience in the above fields. Applications are invited from those who have a minimum of three years' professional experience and are prepared to make a special contribution to one or more of the above fields.

Appointments will normally be made within the salary range £3,275-£5,417 p.a. (London allowance £267).

Write in the first instance, stating the field(s) of interest, to the Secretary to the Management Education & Development Staff, Kingston Polytechnic, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames KT1 2EL.

THE URANIUM INSTITUTE RESEARCH OFFICER/ SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER

The Uranium Institute is an international trade organization set up in 1972 to study issues relating to the supply and demand of uranium. The post now vacant is for a professional research officer. The successful candidate will be responsible for preparing a regular bulletin for members and would also be responsible for the management of the Institute's library and would be expected to contribute to the Institute's research programme. The successful candidate will have a degree in a relevant subject and will have experience in the management of a team and be able to work independently. The successful candidate will also have experience in the management of a team and be able to work independently.

Further particulars can be obtained from Professor J. W. T. Dickerson, Department of Chemistry, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5XH.

Applications with names and addresses of two referees to the Personnel Officer, The Uranium Institute, 11th Floor, New Zealand House, Haymarket, London SW1T 2TE, 01-930 5724.

LAND AUTHORITY FOR WALES

Professional and Administrative Staff

Applications are invited for posts with the Land Authority for Wales. The Authority's task will be to acquire, manage and dispose of development land throughout Wales, under the Community Land Scheme. While the Authority is not a Crown body, salaries are based on Civil Service rates and will be in the range of these scales shown below. The posts will be permanent and pensionable. The main offices will initially be based in Cardiff; offices are likely to be opened later in South West and North Wales.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF LAND MANAGEMENT (£8,650 to £11,000)

This post will involve oversight of the administrative and executive aspects of acquiring, managing and disposing of Authority land. A good educational background will be looked for but managerial skill and experience of property acquisition and development will be important assets, as will a knowledge of compulsory purchase order procedures.

AREA LAND MANAGERS 2 POSTS (£7,750 to £9,350)

It is intended that there shall be area offices of the Authority in North and South West Wales. The area managers will be responsible to the Director of Land Management who will be based at the Authority's Headquarters. The duties of the post will include oversight of the administrative and executive aspects of acquiring, managing and disposing of Authority land in the area covered. Applicants should possess a good educational background. Managerial skill and experience of property acquisition and development will be important assets, along with a knowledge of compulsory purchase order procedures.

CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER (£8,650 to £9,795)

The Chief Planning Officer will be concerned with achieving well-planned development of the Land Authority's estate within the framework of local planning authority policies. He/she will collaborate with local authorities in identifying land suitable for acquisition by the Authority. He/she should hold a professional qualification in town planning and have wide planning and managerial experience at senior level.

SENIOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANT (£4,900 to £5,900)

This post will cover all financial aspects of the Authority's operations, including the keeping of accounts; borrowing and repayment of loans; internal transactions including payment of salaries and allowances. Training in accountancy or local government finance would be desirable but is not essential where the applicant has appropriate experience in a large organisation.

SENIOR DRAUGHTSMAN (£3,766 to £4,356)

The Senior Draughtsman will be responsible for the Authority's drawing office which will prepare drawings needed for site layouts, civil engineering works, title deeds, compulsory purchase orders etc. He/she should have experience of thematic mapping, modern printing techniques and engineering drawing, and be capable of leading a team.

Further information, more detailed job descriptions and application forms can be obtained from:-

Mrs Norma Barry, Land Authority for Wales, Staff Recruitment Board
7th Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff CF1 4SY
(Tel. 44421)

The closing date for the receipt of completed application forms is: 6th Feb., 1976.

SECRETARY: GENEVA £5,000+ p.a.

To assist the M.D. of a Geneva based S.I.T. group. Languages an advantage. Free travel of course plus a large annual bonus. English mother tongue. Interview in central London. Call:-

ACORN
01-493 2964
79 New Bond St., W.1.

Royal Military College
of Science, Shrivenham

LECTURERS - CIVIL ENGINEERING (Up to £5,770)

... are required in the Department of Civil Engineering to lecture at undergraduate and postgraduate level. One lecturer will be particularly concerned with stress analysis, while the others will be involved with one or more of the following topics: structural analysis, engineering geology, hydraulics, armour and protection of vehicles, or stability and vibrations. (A post in land surveying will be advertised shortly). The duties are similar to those of a University Lecturer: staff are encouraged to work for higher degrees and publish the results of their research for which excellent facilities are available.

Candidates must have a 1st or 2nd class honours degree or an equivalent in Engineering. Recent teaching experience would be an advantage.

Appointment will be as Senior Lecturer (£4180-£5770) or Lecturer (£2440-£3525). Starting salary may be above the minimum of either range. Promotion prospects to Principal Lecturer (£5510-£7200). Non-contributory pension scheme. College accommodation may be available for single staff and there is a possibility of housing for married candidates.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 13 February 1976) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 4JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 6551 (answering service operates outside office hours) or London 01-839 1992 (24 hour answering service). Please quote S/9220.

Ministry of Defence

Humberside County Council HULL COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Applications are invited for the following senior posts in this new College of Higher Education to be designated in September 1976 following an amalgamation of Hull Regional College of Art, Hull College of Commerce, Kingston upon Hull College of Education, Hull Nautical College and Hull College of Technology, together with the voluntary Endsleigh College of Education.

ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING and CIVIL ENGINEERING Head of Department, Grade V
BUSINESS STUDIES Head of Department, Grade V
DESIGN Head of Department, Grade IV
QUANTITATIVE METHODS Head of Department, Grade IV
COLLEGE LIBRARIAN Head of Department, Grade IV

Salaries payable:
Head of Department, Grade V, £7,395-£8,271 per annum
Head of Department, Grade IV, £6,756-£7,632 per annum

Further particulars and application forms to be returned no later than 13th February, 1976, may be obtained from the Director of Education (Ref: FE), County Hall, Beverley, HU17 9BA.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, COVENT GARDEN requires a TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

to assist the Technical Management in the day to day running of rehearsals and performances. The applicants should have experience in all stage working techniques, especially lighting, set-building and mechanical experience in Senior Stage-management in the field of Opera or Ballet desirable.

Applications in writing to:
Technical Administrator,
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden WC2

Stock Exchange Prices

Leaders in retreat

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 12. Dealings End, Jan 23. Contango Day, Jan 26. Settlement Day, Feb 3
 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.



BRITISH FUNDS				COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN				LOCAL AUTHORITIES				FOREIGN STOCKS				DOLLAR STOCKS				BANKS AND DISCOUNTS				BREWERS AND DISTILLERS			
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A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A			
A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A			
A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A			
A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A			
A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A			
A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A				A-A			
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New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

NEST DOUBTS ON SCOTLAND

Principal service of the House of Commons in devolution was to all the doubts and into the open. The Paper had already a hostile reception in Wales: now it is evident that it had few Westminsters. Despite success of the voting the end of the debate, it is little chance of a fully reflecting the being piloted on to the book in this.

What is worse, there is a natural agreement on the purpose of action. The s are within the two as much as between both the Labour and ve benches there bers who believed that Paper went too far who believed that it far enough, together rindling of those who tely maintained that it right.

st depressing feature the evidence that so ish MPs have simply to terms with what is in Scotland, appa- rving that an exercise will at Westminster ough to dissolve the of assertion north of But there were also any Members whose as one of honest gnizing how momen- sue is, realizing that be treated in more shion than the usual ight, but not really that should be done

ould the Government- rstances? If sible, there would be said for a policy of activity. Formidable of logic and practice ight not only against Paper proposals but / alternative. There is system of devolution iscovery. But to do uld be to gamble on sion that Scottish i draws not just some of its support from discontent and that rent could be removed the next general elec- uld be to suppose that id be no sense of d indignation in Scot- failure of Westmin- ide the Assembly that roused. Those would ristic assumptions

ment are forced to by the logic of their to this political in- ich distinguishes the struggle from the House of Lords 69 with which it is so red. It is true that vious danger for the ill is that it will be committee as the rds Bill was. But iside was damaging ment then, in that d a loss of morale , they were sacrifi-

exposure is likely to lead American investors to want to reduce their lira holdings. But these economic factors alone do not explain the scale of the run on the lira, nor are they the main cause. There is an economic worry about the country's political future. The sign that the recent at Kingston is com- over, the Italian most certainly, the ic response to a s causes which are c and political, but l them economic.

ic reasons why the e under strain are performed remark- 1975 in reducing its yments deficit, but y begins to recover is bound to be in imports as in- ks. On the capital are slim. There some uncertainty cent worries about some of America's These institutions own for some time committed in lead- Italian Government on them at home air alleged over-

ing a Bill that was not in itself essential. Labour ministers did not believe that their return to office depended on it. No group of Labour MPs believed that their return to Westminster depended on it. The political forces behind devolution are quite different: that will be a Bill that the Government cannot afford to give up.

But they are to get it through they will have to make changes, changes in the scheme itself and changes in their approach. The two are related. The White Paper was prepared behind a screen of exceptional and unnecessary secrecy. It was not therefore the product of as much dialogue as there should have been outside the official machine. A rather more open process is needed now in considering what alterations to make in producing the draft Bill. In doing this and later in piloting the Bill through Parliament there will have to be a readiness to manoeuvre and to take sympathetic account of the views of others that one does not often associate with Mr. Short.

In deciding what changes to make from the White Paper the Government face the dilemma that most Scottish opinion wants a stronger Assembly than was proposed there and most Conservative opinion wants a weaker one. It would be a big mistake for the Government to water down their proposals in the hope of securing an easier passage for them through Parliament: that would defeat their very purpose. But there are some concessions that could be made which would in fact meet both Scottish and Conservative objections. One would be to change the arrangements for determining whether the Assembly's actions were *ultra vires*.

Controversy
It is clear after the Commons debate that this will have to be by judicial review rather than by the Secretary of State acting on the advice of the law officers. While Westminster will have to retain the ultimate authority to overrule the Assembly if this is to be a system of devolution at all, the power to intervene on detailed policies at their whim will have to be abandoned. As in practice it is bound to be a matter of great importance and controversy, to be used only as a last resort for the sovereign Parliament to override a subordinate Assembly in any field of responsibility that had been devolved to it, this would be a concession of form rather more than of substance. The constitutional arrangements would then accord with what Ministers claim would happen anyway.

It is also obvious that another look is needed at the whole role of the Secretary of State. Rather than starting from the proposition that the office has to be retained, which means that as much as possible must be found for him to do when there is an Assembly in being, it would be wiser to consider what the proper relationship should be between the United Kingdom Government and a Scottish

Assembly and administration—and then determine whether there is a job to be done by a Secretary of State. On neither of these points should there be a straight conflict between what is necessary to satisfy Scottish opinion and what would ease the passage of the Bill through Parliament. There may well be on two other critical questions. The first is representation at Westminster. The Scots may not take kindly to having their quota of MPs reduced, but they will have to be told that this will be necessary when they have an Assembly with real powers. This will have to be done on grounds of fairness and because English MPs would simply not accept that the present number of Scottish MPs, an over-representation according to population, should continue to have the right to debate and vote on particular areas of policy for England when those same policy fields in Scotland have been reserved to the Assembly.

Responsible
Then there is the question of some economic powers for the Assembly. This is a matter on which the Government must take account of Scottish feeling, even at the expense of some parliamentary difficulty. The Scottish Development Agency should be entirely responsible to the Assembly, which should also have the power to dispense industrial grants and loans which are now distributed by the Secretary of State. Provided that the method of financing the Assembly is satisfactory there is no reason why this should lead to outrageous competition with other parts of the United Kingdom in attracting industry. Consideration might also be given to handing over to the Assembly such responsibilities as the Manpower Services Commission, the Training Services Agency and the Employment Service Agency which it is proposed to give to the Secretary of State.

The Government would be wise to acknowledge that devolution for Wales is quite a separate matter from devolution for Scotland. It would therefore be wise to have two separate Bills. That would both make it easier to get the Scottish devolution Bill through Parliament and accord with the realities of the situation in the two countries. Finally, the Government should realize that they must make concessions to the attitudes of others in fields beyond that of the White Paper itself. If they proceed with their plans for nationalizing the shipbuilding industry they will be centralizing control of an important Scottish industry outside Scotland. That is just the kind of policy that has fed Scottish resentment in the past. The test for politicians of all parties will be whether they are prepared to give priority, in their policies as well as in their rhetoric, to securing the right relationship between the different parts of the United Kingdom.

Government is able, under the new rules of the International Monetary Fund, to announce that it is ceasing to maintain an official rate for the lira gives it a valuable breathing space in which it can try to work out a package of measures to cope with its problems. Instead of causing a massive international crisis, as might have been the case under fixed exchange rates, the move has caused little more than a ripple in the currency markets. There are no panic meetings of the Group of Ten, no urgent sessions of EEC Finance Ministers to persuade the Italians to defend an unrealistic parity and no signs of Central Bankers trying to conjure up elaborate loans from all over the world.

Though the decision does not directly threaten the world system, it ought not to lead us to believe that the crisis which caused it is unimportant. Italy's political crisis, which threatens to give the Communists their biggest advance in western Europe since the war, must be solved. It is to be hoped that the country's democratic parties can summon the energy and the will to solve it.

Franglais
From Sir Roderick Barclay
Sir, During the abortive Common Market negotiations of 1961-63 members of the British Delegation used at one stage to debate among ourselves the likelihood of getting "a vue d'ensemble" of the main issues before the summer recess of 1962. One day we discovered by chance that in the French Delegation they were similarly discussing the prospects of being able to see "la general picture" by the same date.

Yours faithfully,
RODERICK BARCLAY,
Great White End,
Luton,
Buckinghamshire.
January 20.

Western policy on Southern Africa

From Mr Ian Lloyd, Conservative MP for Havant and Waterloo
Sir, It is perhaps significant that despite the disproportionate ratio of EEC (and particularly British) to American interests in Southern Africa, a situation which has justified a secret session of the United States Senate has not yet been debated by the House of Commons. This reflects an embarrassment that has been injected into the formation of policy by the actuality of apartheid and by the sustained denigration of the quality of life in Southern Africa.

South Africans cannot altogether complain about the hostile climate of Western opinion. But if the war on the face of what is indisputably an outstanding record of development is allowed to dominate our reactions, then Nato will have allowed its flank to be turned, four Africa will conclude in Southern Africa will be another sub-continent will pass into the control of the communist world. Such an event will have a far greater effect on the other events of the world than currently occupying our attention. But Professor Ranger implies in his letter (January 14) that others are "observing the realities by a reiteration of tired jargon", and that the West must now choose between supporting those who intend to "liberate" Southern Africa, and those who, having some experience of "liberation" in countries such as Mozambique, are determined not to surrender Southern Africa to the latest variant of Marxist totalitarianism.

If the elimination of racial discrimination were to be the touchstone of Western policy there is no doubt that the possibility of progress in Southern Africa, which is still wide open to Western influence, is much greater than anything which is likely to be achieved if catastrophic "war of liberation" and economic collapse were to create a totalitarian, semi-tribal communist-controlled system. If it is not the sole touchstone, the fact that it is not on denying itself access to one of the world's richest sources of industrial minerals, largely developed by British capital, including some of the world's principal reserves of uranium, chrome and platinum, then it will, in so doing, abdicate all responsibility for the type of multiracial society which Western ideas have created in Southern Africa. This conclusion must follow from the misguided judgement that the

Stonor Park
From The Dougal Lady Hambleton and Mrs J. D. Colledge
Sir, Following Philip Howard's article in *The Times* on Friday (January 16) we would like to add that for nearly 20 years it has been encouraging to witness the restoration of Stonor Park by Lord and Lady Camoys, and in writing this letter we as taxpayers would like also to applaud the cooperation of the Historic Buildings Council whereby so much public money has been paid in grant to such good purpose. It is therefore with feelings of great sadness and frustration that it is now learnt that the promised opening to the public in the coming summer has been abandoned and that this magnificent house and park is now up for sale and that many of its contents are to be auctioned later this month.

We therefore earnestly desire the Government to use the National Land Fund to buy the property and so avoid the dispersal of what is part of our national heritage, and to "ensure that it becomes more readily available to the public generally". This we feel is even more justifiable since 560,000 of great art has been spent on it already and also since Lord Camoys had first offered it in this way in preference to open sale.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA HAMBLETON,
JANE COLLEDGE, Chairman,
Henley and Marplebury Area,
Council for the Protection of Rural England,
The Hyde,
Hambleton,
Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire.

Children at risk
From Dr Mia Kellmer Pringle
Sir, There is a relatively simple solution to an infringement of parental liberty; or that it would penalize children of poor parents who may be unable to take them for such a regular check-up. With regard to the first objection, parents are compelled to send their child to school which no doubt was seen once as an infringement of their liberties. For those unable to attend a clinic, check-ups could be arranged in their own home. Those who object to them, may well have something to hide and thus are the very parents whose children need the protection of a compulsory examination. Those who have the well-being of their children at heart—the vast majority—would surely welcome the measure.

Yours faithfully,
MIA KELLMER PRINGLE,
68 Wimpole Street, W1.
January 19.

Letters to the Editor

European-dominated societies of Southern Africa are beyond redemption, unacceptable as political allies, an embarrassment to Nato and should, therefore, be abandoned before they tarnish our non-racialist image, a Western policy towards Southern Africa to be based on such a counsel of despair would indeed be a catastrophe.

Professor Ranger clearly believes that the "liberation" of Southern Africa is a meaningful concept and challenges us to say how the West should act before it is too late. My answer is that we should indicate clearly that we will not allow so-called liberation movements in Africa or anywhere else to involve us in a major civil war, having as its main purpose the elimination of a comparatively mild form of social failure, so that in the aftermath of disaster, it can be replaced by a much more entrenched form of totalitarianism such as that which emerged in Eastern Europe in 1946. Europe has the economic power to exert massive influence on Southern Africa. We must assert our conviction that improvement is more likely to follow evolution than revolution and our determination that what has been a Western responsibility will continue to remain one. Neither the West nor Southern Africa have anything to learn from Marxists and communists about the nature of a free society, even if we all have much to learn about the relationships and potential of our own peoples.

Yours sincerely,
IAN LLOYD,
Conservative M.P.
January 20.

Labour funds for guerrillas
From Mrs S. M. Barton
Sir, I read in Wednesday, January 14's issue that the payment of £1,250 from Labour Party funds to guerrilla and liberation movements in southern Africa has been announced by Mrs Judith Hart.

A few days ago I recall reading that the Prime Minister had condemned the collection of funds in the United States which found their way to the promotion of violence in Northern Ireland.

Who in the Labour Party will stand up and dissociate themselves from the support of violence? Yours faithfully,
S. M. BARTON,
Hayden House,
Hayden,
Tunbridge,
Kent.
January 16.

Some will argue that this solution is an infringement of parental liberty; or that it would penalize children of poor parents who may be unable to take them for such a regular check-up. With regard to the first objection, parents are compelled to send their child to school which no doubt was seen once as an infringement of their liberties. For those unable to attend a clinic, check-ups could be arranged in their own home. Those who object to them, may well have something to hide and thus are the very parents whose children need the protection of a compulsory examination. Those who have the well-being of their children at heart—the vast majority—would surely welcome the measure.

Yours faithfully,
MIA KELLMER PRINGLE,
68 Wimpole Street, W1.
January 19.

Criticism of Christian Aid

From Mr David Smithers
Sir, PHS recently referred to someone "replying to the arguments by blackguarding the author". That is how Dr Kenneth Slack appears to respond (letters, January 21) to my request for an inquiry into matters concerning Christian Aid, about which I have expressed grave disquiet.

Nevertheless I shall continue to rely on facts as my best advocate. The Christian Aid staff member, whose testimony about conditions in Camp Lazaret is cited by Mr Slack, accompanied me on my first visit to the camp in November 1974. (He was a paid United Kingdom fund raiser who had helped me conduct an emergency convoy across the Sahara.) That was when I first discovered the appalling dimensions of misery and need in the camp. It was nine weeks later when I again visited the camp, accompanied by Miss Celia Williams, the Senior Projects Officer of Christian Aid, and observed the continuing deterioration of conditions in the camp, which was still without food because the promised Christian Aid emergency grant had not been sent.

A doctor working in the camp told us that most of the deaths were due to "malnutrition-compounded disease". Who can doubt that the promised food would have saved lives daily being lost for want of food—of which there was plenty available in the local markets had the money been available to purchase it? Dr Slack's confusion over the chronology of these events emphasizes the need for an independent inquiry.

As to the nonsense about Christian Aid's "foolish funding of a cattle-breeding project in Lesotho solely for the purpose of the bride price"—of course I said no such thing. I simply questioned in the broadcast the wisdom, in a country which possesses twice as many cows as people and in which the peoples are already overgrazed, of funding a project which includes cattle breeding. Dr Slack says he cannot find any record of such a programme. I can help him there. It is called Thaba Khuba, and has been certainly supported by Christian Aid funds.

In your report on Monday Dr Slack was quoted as saying that there was no evidence that Christian Aid's inefficiency had caused loss of life. The testimony of Miss Williams and myself—senior officials who were on the spot—would be regarded by most people as admissible, and I am sure that the reason enough for an inquiry to be instituted. After all, if he is prepared, *pace* his letter, to throw open Christian Aid's files for the inspection of the press, what possible objection could there be to an honest inquiry conducted by some fair minded person of standing? One would have expected that Church leaders themselves would be content with nothing less.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SMITHERS,
Silver How,
Groombridge,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Blind visitors to Chelsea Flower Show
From Lord Aberconway
Sir, In my earlier letter (January 15) I deliberately confined myself to answering Lord Snowden's main points on guide dogs at the Chelsea Flower Show. Subsequent correspondence has widened the issues, and your readers may find this further letter helpful.

Chelsea, on the private view day and on the other days, is very crowded: guide dogs, which doubtless endure with admirable discipline the pain of their paws being repeatedly trodden on by visitors edging sideways in the crowd to seek a better view of the exhibits, would inevitably cause people, not realising their presence, to stumble, and so would cause accidents. The police and the St. John's Ambulance people at Chelsea have in fact strongly urged on grounds of safety that we should not permit guide dogs into the show. With this advice we have consistently agreed. It is ultimately the society's responsibility, and I remain convinced that our decision has been right.

compassion, and anguish over the suffering and death that he witnessed, and which could have been prevented. It is also spurred by a deep love for the Church and a vision of her manifesting the love of Christ in the midst of human need.

All of us who know him would vouch for this, and would commend his courage in maintaining his stand in the face of enormous pressure. It is a great pity therefore that Christian Aid was not prepared to agree to a British Council of Churches inquiry, and that at the inquiry they did hold neither Mr Smithers nor Miss Williams were asked to give evidence. It is a matter for concern that, notwithstanding a previous statement by Christian Aid admitting error over the Camp Lazaret money, Dr Slack has claimed that there was "no evidence that Christian Aid had caused or contributed to the loss of hundreds of lives in Ethiopia or in the Sahel." If the testimony of the Deputy Director and the Senior Projects Officer, who were on the spot, is not admissible evidence, what is?

There is surely in all this sufficient cause for disquiet, and the British Council of Churches, as the body responsible for Christian Aid, should insist that a full inquiry be held to set the record straight, and to restore confidence in a body which has given splendid service and carries large responsibilities.

If all is now well, as Dr Slack suggests, there is nothing to fear and everything to gain. Continual refusal will only serve to increase the disquiet.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN HUTT,
Member of the Development Standing Committee, Methodist Church Division of Social Responsibility,
6 Highfield Close,
Blean,
Canterbury,
Kent.
January 20.

From The Rev Edward Neale
Sir, Your front page treatment of old Christian Aid sours saddens me. It will reinforce the views of those who already all charge and prefer to keep their money to themselves. It is worth underlining the nature of the complaint... that a delay in the dispatch of money led to a number of lost lives. How much worse if there had been no money to send.

I would welcome an independent assessment into charities bringing relief to the hungry. Perhaps which? will undertake it. My guess is that Christian Aid would get the five star rating for low administration costs and for getting the highest percentage of their gifts to the areas that most need them through the local churches on the spot. In a perverse way your article (January 19) illustrated the great flexibility of this charity to meet emergency needs as and when they occur. Very few other agencies could do with such speed. I shall continue to support Christian Aid in every way I can for the sake of the world's hungry people.

Yours sincerely,
EDDIE NEALE,
1 Thornhill,
Childwall Road,
Liverpool.

would a guide dog be at Chelsea? The answer is none whatsoever unless the blind owner had a complete knowledge of the whole layout at the RHS. To explain briefly, the blind owner must know the area in which he is travelling. The dog walks along the centre of the pavement, stops at every down curb and then obeys instructions regarding turning right, turning left, crossing the road, or reversing direction. Of course these dogs do quickly get to know well-trodden routes, but the owner must know them first or must otherwise ask a sighted person for directions.

There is a case, I feel, for a blind person, travelling up to London from some distance and using his dog as a guide, to be admitted to Chelsea with the dog, and specially if he is a keen gardener. Of course I know that there is a large attendance during the few days of the show, but the idea that the dog close to its owner would constitute a danger to sighted people moving here and there is in my opinion altogether exaggerated. Nevertheless, the dog would surely be much happier if left quietly at home of a motor car.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN BUCKLEY,
56 Madrid Road,
Barnes, SW13.
January 21.

Low key
From Mrs W. E. Balfour
Sir, Before me I have a copy of a solo song published by the Oxford University Press.
"Tell Me, Lonely Shepherd Air by William Boyce
Arranged by Elizabeth Poston
Low Key"

"Low Key" presumably means what others more logically describe as "singing for low voice". Neither expression refers to the emotional content of the piece.

Perhaps musicians should not be too nice about metaphors. No one reproaches a pianist for playing a chromatic scale on black and white notes only.

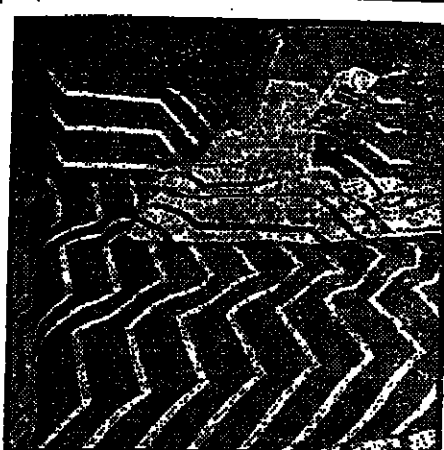
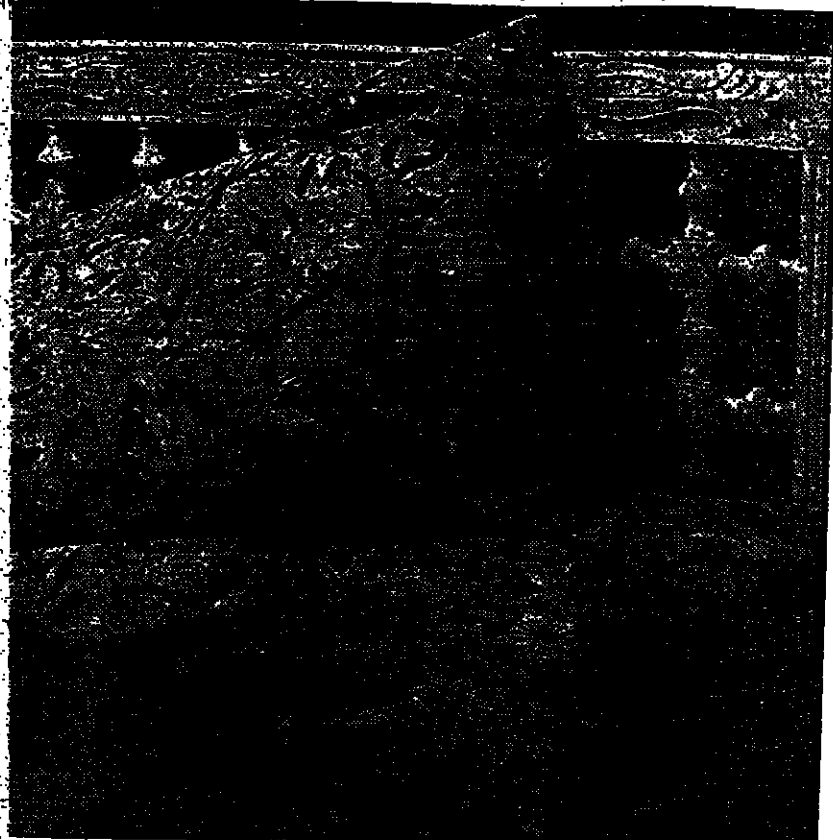
Yours faithfully,
MARGARET BALFOUR,
3 St Andrew's Park,
Histon,
Cambridge.

My word!
From Mr Frank Mear
Sir, Your Diary wrote that next week marks the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of television, pointing out that during its life television has progressed from transmitting the manipulation of a ventriloquist's doll to Kojak.

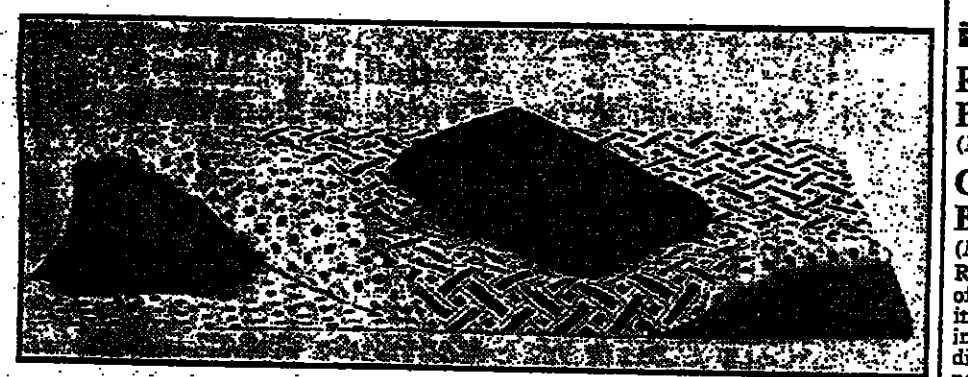
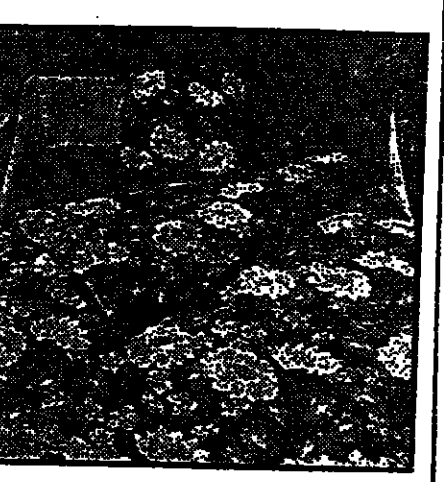
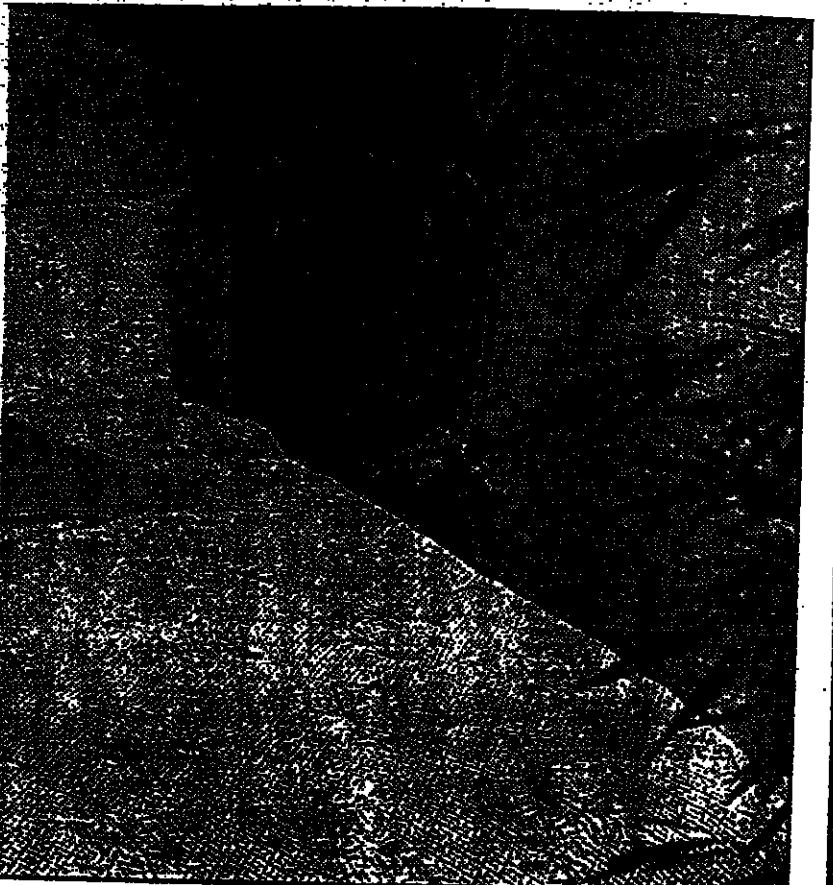
From Baird to worse?
Yours faithfully,
FRANK MEAR,
Annerley,
Thorp,
Egham,
Surrey.
January 20.

A key question is this. What use

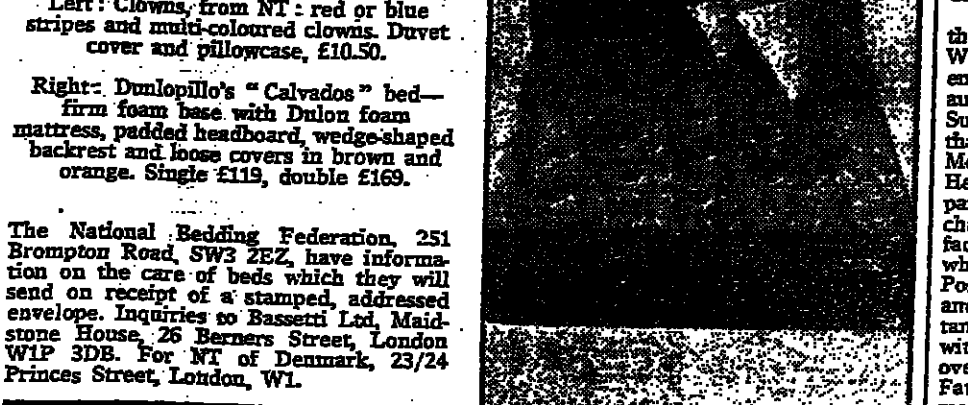
Shopping/Philippa Toomey



Above left: Bettina, from Bassetti: a floral print in blue, green, lilac with coordinating sheets. Single £5.75, double £7.20.
Above: Everest, from NT of Denmark: brown and white or blue and white duvet covers. Single duvet, sheet, pillowcase set £15.19, double £23.25.
Below left: Bamboo, from NT. Shades of green and blue or of brown, plus green or brown fitted sheets. Single duvet cover, sheet and pillowcase, £15.98.
Below: Wilhelmina, from NT. Brown or blue with cream flowers. Fitted cream sheet, single duvet cover, pillowcase £10.50, double £16.50.
Lee Palmas from Bassetti: floral pattern in shades of brown or shades of lilac and white. Duvet covers £8.25 and £11.95.



Above: From Mothercare. Duvet cover in gold/white and brown/white (single bed size) £6.25. Sheet in gold/white spot or brown/white spot £4.25. Pillowcase in gold or brown, 95p.
Left: Clowns, from NT: red or blue stripes and multi-coloured clowns. Duvet cover and pillowcase, £10.50.
Right: Dunlopillo's "Calvados" bed—firm foam base with Dunlopillo mattress, padded headboard, wedge-shaped backrest and loose covers in brown and orange. Single £119, double £169.



The National Bedding Federation, 251 Brompton Road, SW3 2EZ, have information on the care of beds which they will send on receipt of a stamped, addressed envelope. Inquiries to Bassetti Ltd, Maidstone House, 26 Berners Street, London W1P 3DB. For NT of Denmark, 23/24 Princes Street, London, W1.

Choosing more than just somewhere to put your head

At least one third of our lives are spent in bed. It is not surprising, therefore, that the bed is one of the most important pieces of furniture in the home. It is also one of the most expensive. A good bed can make a difference to your health and your sleep. It is worth investing in a good bed. The bed should be comfortable, supportive and durable. It should also be easy to clean and maintain. There are many different types of beds available. You should choose the one that is best for you. Consider your budget, your needs and your preferences. A good bed is an investment in your health and your happiness.

We then go on to king size, 6ft 6in x 7ft, which usually have to be ordered specially. It has always struck me as odd, in these socially democratic days, that a king should be so much bigger than his subjects when it comes to beds. In any case, the idea is for the bed to be between 6in and 8in longer than the sleeper. There seems to be no way to avoid considerable expense—beds are not cheap. But if the initial outlay is divided by the number of years the bed is used—and the National Bedding Federation says, cautiously, between 12 and 15 years is the natural life of a good bed—some slightly more reassuring values may emerge. Perhaps your friendly neighbourhood building society might be appealed to in extreme cases.

Another of our troubles (together with bed problems) is that we are preferring larger beds while bedrooms grow smaller. Having personally come across a room described as a "third bedroom" in a recently built house that had no wall long enough to take a standard bed, the bed manufacturers have recognized this. They are now producing beds which fold into cupboards, beds which disappear into sofas and walls, calling to mind the Thurbur household's cottage table cum ironing board which, on sunny nights in Columbus, Ohio, spent its time converting rapidly from one to the other. For a rather grand bed in the old-fashioned manner, the Minstrel range of Stag do a modern four-poster: the four-poster bit which includes the base, head and foot boards, side rails and canopy frame is £110, not including a mattress. Sanderson print drapes and bedspread add £84.23. If you rush to Waring and Gillow in Regent Street, they have a few in the sale. For a perfectly straightforward basic bed, Habitat have an interior sprung mattress (filled with coil fibre and wool felt) on a wooden frame base, covered in plain black and white ticking, single £42, double £57.50. There is so much on the market in the way of sheets, pillowcases, duvet covers and duvets that the blanket manufacturers must be feeling a little chilly. Shown here are a number of new designs which will be coming into the shops at the end of February and the beginning of March. But if you can't wait, my local Woolworth's had Vincal/Cotton sheets at £3.49 single, £4.49 double in blinding shades of deep turquoise, purple, violent pink and egg yolk yellow. Marks and Spencer were more subtle with pale mauve, pale pink and pale yellow in Polyester/Cotton at £3.75 single and £4.50 double. If you are considering buying a bed, the thing to do is to look at as many as you can. It may be like Evelyn Waugh's Lord Marchmont, that you feel a longing for the ancestral Queen's bed: "It came down the main staircase in pieces, at intervals during the afternoon; huge sections of rocco, velvet-covered cornice; the twisted gilt and velvet columns which formed its posts; beams of unpainted wood, made not to be seen, which supported the canopy; a canopy of feathers, which sprang from gold-mounted ostrich eggs and crowned the canopy; finally, the mattresses with four toiling men to each." It wasn't dust-free or non-allergic—but he wanted to die in it.

BOOKS

Prints for the parlour

Gambart

Prince of the Victorian Art World

By Jeremy Maas

(Barrie & Jenkins, £8.50)

Ernest Gambart (1814-1902) reformed the possession of three great and worldly talents. He could divide the public mood almost before it had set; he could make a brilliant show of it; and he could establish and maintain his own respectability. Yet he had three wives, all dead by 1870 (the third divorced and broken-hearted), one mistress for certain and probably many more. He had a fourth talent, too, founded on the first three: through depression and panic and fashion Gambart always survived.

Gambart was a High Victorian dealer—come see the dealer—in prints and pictures and during the flush years between the Great Exhibition and the Franco-Prussian War he transformed the London art world. Trade in Old Masters being long discredited by the ease with which they could be faked by "smoking"—there was a "Casentini" factory in Richmond—the new painters and shippers and stockbrokers preferred to invest their money in the art of the day. Dealers became for the first time an acceptable, lubricant, part of the system through whom both sensitive artists and wary patrons became better pleased with their exchange: there was, in better, more money, and better art, for everyone.

It sounds splendid, and perhaps we are returning to such active investment today, but if this was, as Jeremy Maas tells us: "The Golden Age of the Living Fanny", it is important to see at one time it was the golden age of the living picture who sold. There is nothing in Gambart to suggest that this master of the market ever risked popularity or profit in the art of the day. Paul Durand-Ruel fought for the Impressionists in France and America, nor that he claimed to be other than utterly, if elegantly, commercial.

In the age of Delacroix, Courbet, Manet and the Barbizon School, Gambart's greatest French success, in an England notoriously indifferent to French painting, was with the animal pictures of Rosa Bonheur, a safe disciple of the school. Landseer and himself a highly unimpeachable personality. Among English painters (though he was born at Courtrai, in Dutch born) Gambart's greatest "creation" was the charming but essentially wet Lawrence



Best of Ernest Gambart's best-selling painters was Laurence Alma-Tadema (1836-1912), a popular and genial Dutchman here portrayed in Victorian Studio Photographs (Ash & Grant, £8.95), collected from the archives of two great firms—Alexander Bassano and Elliott and Fry—by Bevis Hillier, and handsomely reproduced on fine paper. Other worthies include Kitchener, Kruger, King Cetschwayo, Liszt, Marie Tempest and Prince Arthur of Connaught.

Alma-Tadema from whom, on receipt of one painting, he at once commissioned 25 more, and when these were delivered depressingly on time, another 45. Alma-Tadema's Roman ladies gave, as one of his American collectors today has discovered such good value, but what the Prado thought when Gambart bequeathed them "A Pompeian Scene" on his death is not recorded. He worked closely with Alma-Tadema's box office rivals, the professional W. P. Frith and the painstaking Holman Hunt, and made large sums annually for the rest of his life from the steel engraving copyrights of *Derby Day* and *The Light of the World*. That was where the big money lay, much like film and paperback rights in book-publishing today, and in that territory Gambart had no equal as long as he chose to run it. "He believed," writes William Gaunt in *Victorian Olympus*, "in the best-seller."

He was born at Courtrai, in Flanders, came to London after his father's imprisonment for

his death was covered with ribbons and gongs from all over Europe.

All this information comes from *Gambart*, and will be unfamiliar to many. Mr Maas, himself a dealer and author of *Victorian Painters* (1969) set out to write a general survey of the exuberant mid-Victorian art world but found, he tells us, that so many of its roads led straight to the initiative of Ernest Gambart, that he resolved to do a biography instead—it is the first. While enjoying greatly Mr Maas's deep love and detailed knowledge of the period—his accounts of *Derby Day's* manufacture, of the gar's position at Gambart's house and his arrival in England are all first class—I still doubt there is a whole book in Gambart, a secretive operator on whom surviving personal material is surprisingly scarce. He remains in his own shadow.

Six whole weeks at the start of 1867, for example, when his third marriage was breaking up, what did he really think about painting? Does Mr Maas seriously believe Ernest Gambart was "A Modern Lorenzo the Magnificent"? The news that in 1854 Gambart's novel French exhibition was to be an annual event, and that works by Ary Scheffer, Hoguer, Dupré, Bland and Muller were "arriving daily" will stir few tremors of excitement even in the well-informed amateur of Victorian society who will enjoy much of this book. It sounds like a march of pygmies.

In all this nineteenth-century world of huge popular appetite and commercial patronage, the purest artist emerges as Hunt, who resists Gambart's generous offer of a retainer without strings, and the nearest thing to a giant, by far, is the furious and mocking Rossetti:

There is an old he-wolf named Gambart
Beware of him if thou a lamb
Else thy tail and thy toes
And those innocent nose
Will be ground by the grinders
of Gambart.

Unfair, of course. There was no he-wolf and there were no lambs. But all artists need absolute freedom and a measure of security from starvation, and neither Rossetti nor Gambart could work out an answer from each other to that one.

Michael Ratcliffe

Fiction

Ragtime

By E. L. Doctorow

(Macmillan, £3.50)

Gentle Folk

By Alexander Baron

(Macmillan, £3.95)

Ragtime is the national anthem of the American psyche; but it is hard to translate the music into words. There is an extreme disparity of structure. The novel *Ragtime* arrives crowded with such hyperbolic unrefined acclaim from across the Atlantic that it sounds as if it has been mistaken for another pretender to the title of the Great American Novel.

It is set in the ragtime era, the decade before the 1914-18 War. And it is fiction encouched, to adopt one of the author's neologisms, in history. Such real giants and clowns of that age as Houdini, Pierpont Morgan, Sigmund Freud and Henry Ford have walk-on parts. The principal fictional characters are Father, a manufacturer of flags and fireworks, who goes almost to the North Pole with Commander Percy, and goes down the Lusitania. Mother submits to Father's death ends up happily married to a Socialist Jewish immigrant who has made good in motion picture.

Mother's Younger Brother is in love with Evelyn Nesbit, the first sex goddess in American folk lore; with face blacked with burnt cork he becomes a bomber, and revolutionary in the black gang led by the ragtime pianist, Coalhouse Walker. Knowing small boy watches it all with beady eyes. And no wonder that they are beady. There are extraordinarily coincidental brief encounters, spiritualism, symbolism, and assorted copulation. Loving lists of period objects and contemporary people are used to evoke atmosphere: item, a 45 hp Pope-Toledo Runabout; and another item, a Baldwin 440 with spoked engine truck wheels.

The author has an irritating trick of using long words without having taken the trouble to ascertain their precise meanings; for example, Nemesis, apparently to mean a rival; ex-pectorant to mean spit; and connive as a transitive verb to mean to acquire by trickery and good luck, as in "she connived a fortune". It seems, in fact, pretty pretentious and vulgar.

By contrast *Gentle Folk* is another retrospective period piece, set in England just before the First World War: it is less ambitious, far better written, more concise and successful.

It takes place at one of those ghastly Edwardian country house parties, with kidneys and butlers at the sideboard for breakfast, a village cricket match between gents and peasants on the lawn, and a certain amount of midnight creeping around the bedrooms. Real history intrudes in the form of the Parliament Bill making its way through the House; Lloyd George and his chief guest for the weekend is H. G. Wells, welcomed as a literary lion, but comporting himself as a vain, insensitive, but engaging ram. Period references abound, from Delage to the Agatha crisis; but the atmosphere of that so-called golden age is more subtly conveyed by the style of colloquy and pattern of thought. Not, thank FitzHeavens, another shot at the Great American Novel; but a pleasing specimen of the Exquisite Little English Novel.

Philip Howard

Civil war paradox

The Day Guernica

Died

By Max Morgan-Witts

and Gordon Thomas

(Hodder & Stoughton, £4.95)

The Germans bombed Guernica on April 20, 1937. Nobody has denied that for a long time. But why did they do it? This is a question to which, for all their research and deduction, the authors do not attempt a direct answer. They recapitulate familiar facts about the strategic position of Guernica, the make-up and movement of the opposing forces, and the general situation of the Basques, while the originality of the book lies in its painstaking presentation of the events of April 20 and the preceding days, as experienced by the participants.

What they bring out admirably is the paradox of Guernica, which has become an emotional term in the collective mouth of the Left for nearly four decades. Yet the Basques were not Communists, nor even Leftists for the most part. They did in fact have more in common philosophically with the Spanish Nationalists than the Republicans, being themselves intensely nationalistic and deeply Catholic. But their nationalism was also separatist, and they found themselves in much the same position as the Texans in the American Civil War, opting for what seemed to them the lesser of two evils so far as their nationhood was concerned, despite doubts as to whether any strong Spanish government, Right or Left, would in the event have tolerated the secession of such a rich region.

Controversy, where it is not merely the handmaid of partisanship, revolves around motive. Was this a massive German air strike at the confluence of three main roads at

Guernica, to disrupt the Republican withdrawal? Ostensibly the Basque bridge was the target, but the bridge remained intact after the bombardment, and so did the local armaments factory—just as the larger, another arms factory, untouched while a thousand civilians died. And why use 100,000 pounds of bombs to knock out a bridge not 30 yards long?

Was this perhaps an experiment to assess the effects of terror bombing on a civilian population inevitably mixed up with garrison and transient troops? Gordon Thomas and Max Morgan-Witts, who have more right than most to an authoritative opinion, do not come to conclusions.

Probably the only man who might have given a clear-cut answer was the enigmatic Wolf von Richthofen, and he died without a statement on the subject. Von Richthofen, Chief of Staff of the Condor Legion in Spain, and the attack on Guernica was primarily his in concept and execution. He was a more dangerous man than the aerial terrorists some of his countrymen and some of his country's adversaries were later to become. There was no fanatic zeal or ideological passion in von Richthofen. He was a dedicated military man intent on testing his pilots and his planes. The targets were just targets for the testing process. They had no other context, and the involvement of non-combatants was incidental, irrelevant, an abstract that could not be allowed to cloud the experiment.

The text (supplemented by meticulous notes, bibliography and appendices) is exhaustive in its attention to human detail—to such an extent that one is intrigued by the brevity of a comment by the Lieutenant Hans Assmus, a member of the German Condor Legion: "His wife was a Basque." We are not told whether this was the same girl who taught the officer Spanish in Victoria, but the union must have had some sort of marginal social significance worth elaboration.

Laurence Cottle

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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Port on future of CBI its 'inner cabinet' 6 top industrialists

The main officers of the CBI have been at the heart of many of its problems. To ease the load it is recommending that only six of the 26 members of its 'inner cabinet' should be working with the director-general, but also giving the two deputy directors-general more specific responsibilities.

It should be responsible to the director-general for co-ordinating policy, forming functions and, in particular, the work of the standing committees. The other should be responsible for the work overseas.

On the CBI's position in relation to public ownership, the committee states: "That position is, and should remain, neutral."

"The CBI opposes the extension of state ownership of industry, believing that such extension is inimical to the development of the country's economy."

Aims of the CBI could be formulated shortly as follows, says the report:

To work for the establishment and maintenance of policies for the efficient working of the mixed economy. The essence of these policies is that both private and public sectors should be efficient and financially healthy.

To secure and maintain for management in all sectors that degree of freedom of action which its responsibilities for the efficient use of resources require.

Diversity of membership means that within these aims there must be room for some degree of view on ways of achieving them.

But this should not deter the CBI from making prompt and positive statements, whenever necessary, on matters either of general concern or affecting a particular sector.

The committee considers that, for the CBI to be effective, its members should continue to serve for one year and, as a matter of practice, be re-elected for one further year.

A presidential committee should consist of the president, his deputy and director-general, the chairman of five senior committees and the smaller Firms Council; representatives from the CBI regional chairmen, the nationalised industries, City interests, employer organisations and trade associations.

Call to halt spread of petrol price cuts war

By Roger Violevo
Energy Correspondent

As pressure mounted to halt the spread of petrol-price-cutting two more companies, Shell and Esso, entered the arena with cheaper petrol yesterday, after the earlier moves from BP and BP to cut up to 7p off the price of a gallon in selected areas.

A report to be submitted to three government ministers this week suggests that curbs should not be placed on the activities of the leaders in the petrol price war.

Officials from the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Energy and Industry, have conducted an intensive survey into the petrol retail market during the past three months and now suggest that price cutting is not against the long term interests of the motorist.

Mrs Williams, the Secretary of Prices and Consumer Protection, said she was under pressure to stop the cut-price petrol war. The Petroleum Retailers Association has asked her to impose a minimum price and yesterday Mr Walter Johnson, MP for Derby South, tabled a Commons question asking her to intervene.

The price war could only have a disastrous effect on small garages and "in the long run would be detrimental to the motorist", he said.

In the light of the report by the civil servants, it is unlikely there will be any government intervention. The report adds that price cutting has not increased consumption of petrol or undermined the aims of the Saver campaign, and is in the interests of the motorist.

Officials looked at the operations of the companies like ICI and the ASDA hypermarket chain, which have been instrumental in bringing the major oil companies to the petrol price cutting field after a lull of three months.

Work on the report finished as Esso announced its 7p a gallon return to the price war on Monday. But the officials have taken into consideration the fact that the companies were likely to resume support to their dealers probably at a higher rate than the 1.5p a gallon discount being given last October.

Both Shell and Esso will match the 7p a gallon support to their dealers hardest pressed by price cutting companies in the North and north Midlands. Terms are similar to those offered by Esso and BP—2.8p a gallon discount to be matched by the dealer with the VAT reduction making up the 7p.

Dollar stronger as nervousness over lira hits weak currencies

By David Blake

Italy's decision yesterday to close foreign exchange markets until further notice unsettled currency markets throughout Europe, causing increased nervousness about other currencies generally felt to be weak.

Trading in the lira itself was extremely high. Most banks in London continued to exchange the currency for tourists, though a number imposed a limit of about £100.

On official markets, the lira was fixed at around 710 to the dollar, a devaluation of around 3 per cent on the day.

There was lively dealing in other currencies, with the dollar strengthening. Sterling and the French franc weakened.

A strengthening factor for the dollar was believed to be the switch into dollars of funds held by a number of international companies.

Gold, which has fallen sharply in recent days because of doubts over the International Monetary Fund's plans to sell part of its stock, recovered to close at \$125.00.

Dealers are expecting the lira's suspension from official quotation to have only a limited effect in the next few days. In Brussels, an EEC spokesman confirmed that the Italian government had not been obliged to consult the community about its action and said that the Italian steps would not result in any EEC intervention.

John Earle in Rome writes: The Italian move came after 20 days in which the government had spent \$576m (over £250m) from the reserves to bolster the currency.

Signor Emilio Colombo, the Treasury Minister, said after an emergency meeting of ministers and Bank of Italy officials last night that the early hours of the morning, that no other course was open than the closure of markets "to block this hemorrhage of dollars".

Though the balance of payments ended 1975 in much better shape than 1974, a sudden threat to the lira's defences blew up in recent weeks, particularly since the resignation of the government earlier this month.

Only \$591m in the reserves is stated to be available for further defence operations, in addition to the \$3,482m of gold, which the authorities would be loath to dispose of, and conditional credit lines from the International Monetary Fund and other central banks.

In the light of these facts, ministers agreed with Signor Paolo Baffi, the governor of the Bank of Italy, on the closure of foreign exchange markets.

They are expected to remain shut for several days while the government works out what official circles describe as an emergency package of measures, though no indication has so far been given of their nature.

In the meantime, foreign visitors were able to change currency at banks today up to 100,000 lire (about \$144), though Italian travellers abroad reported difficulty in obtaining foreign currency.

Rome banks were changing at a rate of 694 to the dollar, against yesterday's closing official rate of 686.7. On the "parallel" of black market, dollars were changing hands for 800 lire.

Since the lira was floated in February, 1973, its depreciation has risen to 24.4 per cent in the index calculated by the financial newspaper *La Repubblica*.

The index instituted last year by the bank of Italy showed a depreciation yesterday of 20.01 per cent.

Leading article, page 15
What makes it different, page 21

Rank may give successor hint today

By Our Financial Staff

Rank Organisation will publish an important supplementary statement with its 1975 results this afternoon.

It is expected to set out proposals for the enfranchisement of the "A" capital and it may give a timetable for the departure of the chairman, Sir John Davis, and indicate that his successor could be Mr Harry Smith, a non-executive Rank director since 1971 and the chairman of Bardon.

It is four months since Rank boarded up an acrimonious boardroom dispute by dismissing the chief executive, Mr Graham Dowson, and promising to consider the idea of enfranchisement and the role and composition of the board.

The timing for enfranchisement and the departure of Sir John could be debated. Giving votes to "A" shareholders will give muscle to the powerful American shareholder lobby who after enfranchisement will probably hold some 30 per cent of the votes.

Many American shareholders are known to be unhappy about Sir John's management style and could seek his removal, given the chance.

Sir John probably wants to stay as chairman until his seventeenth birthday in November, though he may be prepared to hand over effective running of the company to someone like Mr Smith almost at once.

It is being suggested that Mr Smith may be named as executive deputy chairman, that Sir John will give up the chairmanship, and that shareholders will be given the timing and terms for enfranchisement.

Ordinary shareholders could receive a 1-for-10 bonus issue to compensate for the loss of voting control at Rank.

Meanwhile, the Rank share prices reacted yesterday as the stock market took a closer look at disappointing Xerox Corporation figures published on Tuesday.

Rank "A" ended the day's trading at 170p, down 10p, with analysts now fairly confident that Rank's 1975 figures, reflecting the recession and tougher competition, will as expected be near-par.

Market estimates, with the benefit of the Xerox figures, are that Rank Xerox earnings will be around 16p a share, compared with 19.14p in 1974, while non-Xerox earnings could well be near-par.

On this basis, Rank Organisation earnings would be down from 20.36p a share in 1974 to between 14p and 17p a share for last year.

Last quarter consumer spending at lowest for three years

By Tim Congdon

Consumer spending was at its lowest level for three years in the fourth quarter of 1975. It amounted to £8,790m (in 1970 prices), only just ahead of £8,765m in the fourth quarter of 1972 and less than in every intervening quarter, according to preliminary estimates released yesterday by the Central Statistical Office.

Moreover, consumer spending was falling continuously throughout last year. Between the third and fourth quarters the drop came to 0.3 per cent, after falls of 1.7 per cent between the first and second quarters and of 1.4 per cent between the second and third.

According to yesterday's figures consumers' expenditure was 0.3 per cent lower in 1975 than in 1974. There was also a decline between 1973 and 1974, amounting to 0.6 per cent. However, the CSO said that the 1975 figures may still be revised and that complete data for the year will only become available in March.

Although the change in consumer spending at the end of last year was small it would appear to contradict suggestions that the economy has begun to revive.

Consumer expenditure is the largest single element in gross domestic product and, if it declines, other components of demand have to rise strongly to prevent GDP as a whole from declining as well.

At present only government spending and a faster growth of export than import volume are sustaining demand. It is unlikely that they were rising strongly enough in the fourth quarter to make GDP increase from its third quarter level. The implication is that national output fell by about 2 per cent last year.

The intensity of the recession so far has taken most forecasters by surprise. A big contributing factor has been the unexpectedly high level of personal savings, associated with the combination of depressed spending and a switch of income from the company to personal sectors.

However, it is thought that the savings ratio may now begin to fall. The recession may have reduced real disposable income in the fourth quarter by rather more than the 0.3 per cent drop in consumers' expenditure.

The CSO notes that the main change between the third and fourth quarters was a reduction of over 10 per cent in spending on motor cars. This was largely a reaction to a successful sales campaign by British Leyland in the third quarter.

CONSUMER SPENDING

The following are the figures for consumers' expenditure seasonally adjusted at constant 1970 prices, released by the Central Statistical Office yesterday:

Quarter	£m	% change on previous quarter
1973 Q1	9056	14.0
Q2	8886	-7.3
Q3	9011	5.8
Q4	9009	-0.1
1974 Q1	8880	-5.6
Q2	8841	-1.7
Q3	8963	5.6
Q4	9057	4.3
1975 Q1	9100	1.9
Q2	8941	-5.8
Q3	8814	-5.6
Q4*	8790	-1.1

* First preliminary estimate.

ican forecast of higher r shipments denied

Prices eased very slightly on Tuesday, the undertone of the market remained steady.

M. Gaeremik said that although no date had been fixed, CIPEC ministers would probably meet again this summer, possibly before the present cutback period ends in June, to decide what measures, if any, were needed to support copper prices.

The American forecast serves to emphasize the dilemma in which the CIPEC producers find themselves. In 1974 several of them made plans based on an estimated average copper price of about \$800 a tonne, given that in the first quarter of that year the price had fallen from the \$800s to well over £1,000 a tonne.

But since the middle of 1974 there has been a steady decline into the \$500-\$600 range, which means that the CIPEC producers are selling at below the cost of production.

Backing 'in principle' for curbs

By Derek Harris

The Confederation of British Industry last night agreed in principle to the Government's voluntary package to restrict price rises—but prolonged talks at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection failed to bring the Retail Consortium in line on the agreement.

Some important principles as well as detailed matters had apparently still not been settled to the consortium's satisfaction. Hitherto it had been particularly anxious to establish a flexibility for retailers both above and below the 5 per cent price ceiling which the Government wants to introduce on February 1.

This would allow it to load one item up to as much as 7 per cent, while keeping another down as little as 3 per cent, achieving a 5 per cent average overall.

Many difficulties have arisen on which items can be loaded to the higher rate because Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, is anxious to keep down prices, particularly of goods going into the average household.

The CBI emphasized last night that its agreement in principle depended on the consortium's backing.

But in a written answer to a Commons question later, Mrs Williams said that talks on the price restraint scheme—due to operate for six months from February 1—were progressing well with "only one or two points remaining to be agreed with the Retail Consortium".

It is now clear that no products of a nationalised industry will be on Mrs Williams's list. Nor will television rentals. The National Television Rental Association says that problems in staying within the 5 per cent are insuperable.

Stock markets in retreat after sellers move in

By David Mori

Sellers were out in some force in early trading on the London stock market yesterday. An attempt at a rally in the afternoon was ended by a weaker opening on Wall Street and the FT Index closed 7.8 down to 388.4, its low point of the day.

Dealers reported that many of the leading stocks were looking "very tight" at present levels and that even second-line issues were beginning to flag.

The gilt-edged market was also affected. "Shorts" lost up to three-eighths on the day, while the longer end closed up to several quints of a point off after profit-taking had led to heavy selling.

Consortium sues Austrian banking house for \$20.7m

By John Brennan

Merchant bankers Singer & Friedlander, as leaders of a 10-bank consortium, are suing Creditanstalt-Bankverein, the Austrian banking house, for \$20.7m (about £10.4m).

The money, due under letters of credit issued by the Austrian bank late in 1974, was advanced to finance a pharmaceutical deal by two continental companies. One of these companies, which received the bulk of the loan, is a trading subsidiary of Creditanstalt.

The case will be fought in the Austrian commercial courts, where Creditanstalt has already deposited \$11m, covering two of the letters of credit. The third letter was one of two issued to the Austrian bank's own subsidiary.

Now the subsidiary has obtained a court order preventing its parent company from depositing the money borrowed against this letter with the court.

Singer & Friedlander started proceedings in the Austrian courts two days ago to determine whether the \$11m paid into the courts by Creditanstalt amounts to a discharge of its obligations under two of the letters of credit. It is now about to start litigation demanding payment of the loans covered by the third letter.

It is understood that Creditanstalt may oppose full payment on the ground that the loans were in some way linked to the success or otherwise of the drug deal they financed.

But as no members of the Singer & Friedlander consortium had any part in this deal, they are holding out for full repayment of the debt.

Money from Singer & Friedlander, which acted as lead bank on the original loan and is now dealing with the legal battle to recover the money, nine leading international banks have an interest in the case.

Williams & Glyn, London & Continental Bankers, International Commercial Bank and the Royal Bank of Canada all form part of the group, as do Nordea, Finland's A.S. Ruostevä Bank, Security Pacific National Bank, the South African Standard Chartered Bank and the Soviet Union's Moscow Narodny Bank.

Dr Burns against publishing reports on banks

Washington, Jan 21

Dr Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, today rejected a suggestion made at the House of Representatives' monetary affairs subcommittee that reports by bank examiners on the condition of commercial banks should be published.

These reports were highly confidential and their publication could lead to misinterpretations and the politicizing of the banking system.

In what was clearly a reference to newspaper stories last week saying that two leading New York banks were seen by examiners to have serious problems, he stated: "When you cast doubt on the solvency of banks, you are taking grave risks."

Haw 'caretaker' chief resigns

Mr Robert Booker, the Singapore lawyer who acted as caretaker chairman of the board before the recent appointment of Mr Michael Fam, yesterday resigned as a director of the company.

His resignation comes several months after Haw Par's government-approved boardroom reshuffle, which replaced several directors with leading Singapore bankers and industrialists.

Britain may take up £575m loan this week

The Government may draw its 1000m SDR borrowing facility from the International Monetary Fund this week, writes David Blake. The loan, worth about £575m will be supplemented during the next 12 months by a further 700m SDRs taken from the first tranche of the United Kingdom's borrowing entitlement.

WARREN TEA OLDINGS LIMITED

Interim Statement
Year Ended 31st December, 1975

The year ended 31st December, 1975, has been satisfactory and we are confident that the profit before taxation will show a further increase.

It is intended to recommend for 1976 the payment of the maximum dividend under the Government's existing regulations. In order to comply with the terms of the Final Distribution, the day declared an interim dividend of 1.5p per share, from the 2.30p net per share for 1974, payable on 22nd April, 1976, to the Registrar at the close of business on 14th February, 1976.

TEA STATISTICS

1975 INDIA CROP 1974
4,922 kgs. 10,131,985 kgs.
Tea Sales—London—India to end-December
25 kgs @ 66.12p per kg. 2,533,894 kgs @ 64.85p per kg.
1 kg. @ 66.12p per kg. 1,533,894 kgs @ 64.85p per kg.
1 kg. @ 66.12p per kg. 1,533,894 kgs @ 64.85p per kg.
1 kg. @ 66.12p per kg. 1,533,894 kgs @ 64.85p per kg.

KENYA CROP
455,102 kgs.
Tea Sales—London—Kenya to end-December
25 kgs @ 66.12p per kg. 2,533,894 kgs @ 64.85p per kg.
1 kg. @ 66.12p per kg. 1,533,894 kgs @ 64.85p per kg.
1 kg. @ 66.12p per kg. 1,533,894 kgs @ 64.85p per kg.
1 kg. @ 66.12p per kg. 1,533,894 kgs @ 64.85p per kg.

A record crop has once again been achieved, being an increase on the previous year. A change in marketing policy this year has meant a greater percentage of the crop being sold earlier, which has helped to bring 1,130 tonnes compared with 906 tonnes in 1974. The price has increased significantly and the estate should make a profit in 1975.

Avoided investments should produce overall better results in 1976.

ACQUISITION

We also announce that the Company has today acquired the issued share capital of James Warren & Company (Africa) Ltd, a registered company which is engaged in the production, technical and mechanical engineering and the manufacture of its in Kenya.

On 1st January, 1976, the date of the last audited accounts, the net assets of James Warren & Company (Africa) Ltd were £100,013 (£100,013) and the profit before taxation for the year ended 31st December, 1975, was £1,130. The Company's share capital will be a useful addition to the Company's overseas working interests.

For the acquisition is the allotment of 200,000 new shares of 1s each in Warren Tea Oldings Limited, which will be in all respects with the existing issued Ordinary Shares of the Company with the payment of £1,130 in cash. On the basis of the above, the value of the consideration is £237,500. Arrangements are being made for the new shares to be issued in conjunction with E. B. & Co. to place the new shares with institutional investors.

21st January, 1976.

£31.5m from Thorn

Thorn Electrical pushed up its interim pre-tax profits by 12 per cent to £31.5m.

Turnover increased from £277m to £292m with overseas sales advancing 41 per cent to £126m. The shares eased 2p to 234p after the results.

Financial Editor, page 21

Inflation pace slows in US

Washington, Jan 21.—The upward pace of American inflation slowed last month with a 0.5 per cent rise in the consumer price index after gains of 0.7 per cent in October and November.

The Department of Labour reported today that consumer prices on a seasonally-adjusted annual basis rose at a rate of 7.6 per cent over the last three months, and economists said that all the latest statistics showed that economic recovery was firmly under way. A further cut in the rate of inflation was expected in the coming months.

How the markets moved

The Times Index: 162.47 - 2.56
The FT Index: 388.4 - 7.8

Rises

Barclays	3p to 48p	Marlevalle Con	10p to 160p
Crested House	3p to 36p	Nabatek Exploit	10p to 25p
Dawnay Day	1p to 21p	Rand Mine Prop	5p to 175p
Harmony	20p to 415p	Sentrast	5p to 185p
Kenia	8p to 60p	UC Invest	10p to 250p
Kitchen Taylor	8p to 60p	Union Corp	10p to 410p
		Welkom	10p to 260p

Falls

Ass Port Cement	9p to 185p	Metal Box	7p to 278p
Boots	6p to 131p	P&O Wallend	8p to 322p
Brit Am Tob	4p to 157p	Royal	10p to 380p
Coventry	4p to 157p	Shell	10p to 380p
GKN	4p to 274p	Sunley B	5p to 163p
Hawker Sid	8p to 384p	Turner Curzon	10p to 91p
Imp Chem Ind	5p to 355p	Union Discount	10p to 355p

THE POUND

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia	5	Belgium	36.50
Austria	35.50	Canada	2.07
Denmark	12.40	Finland	8.00
France	9.30	Germany	5.40
Greece	8.00	Hong Kong	10.40
Italy	16.00	Japan	64.00
Netherlands	5.35	Norway	11.50
Portugal	69.00	Spain	124.25
Sweden	9.10	Switzerland	5.40
US	2.07	Yugoslavia	40.50

Gold gained 75 cents an ounce to \$125.25.

SDR-5 was 1.17080 on Wednesday while SDR-6 was 0.678137.

Commodities: Reuters' index was at 1197.2 (previous 1191.6).

Reports pages 22 & 23

Linford Holdings Limited

Interim statement for the 28 weeks ended November 8, 1975 (unaudited)

	28 weeks to Nov 8, 1975	Period to April 26, 1975
Sales	99,287	163,107
Profit before taxation	1,490	2,273
Taxation	797	1,215
Profit attributable to members	693	1,058
Dividends:		
For the year to April 26, 1976		
Payable on 7,433,706 shares		
Interim—4.0 pence per share net		
For the period to April 26, 1975		
Payable on 5,946,965 shares		
Interim equivalent to 2.0 pence per share net		
Special Interim in lieu of final 6.0 pence per share net		
	130	
		357
Earnings per share		
(Based on 7,433,706 shares—1974/75—5,946,965 shares)		
	9.3 pence	17.8 pence

The comparative figures for the period to April 26, 1975 consist of: Associated Food Holdings Limited for 52 weeks, including Upward & Rich Limited since its acquisition for cash on June 27, 1974 and Thomas Linnell & Sons Limited for 56 weeks.

In view of the differing dates to which the preceding audited accounts of these companies were drawn up, it is not considered meaningful to produce comparative figures for the 28 weeks to November 1974.

The interim dividend will be paid on February 16, 1976 to shareholders on the register on January 16, 1976.

In 1974/75 the interim dividends were paid to the shareholders of Associated Food Holdings Limited and Thomas Linnell & Sons Limited, and the special interim dividend in lieu of final was paid to shareholders of Linford Holdings Limited.

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US Chrysler chief accused of 'about face' in negotiations

By Edward Townsend
Mr John Riccardo, chairman of the Chrysler Corporation of America, who criticized the British Government for a complete about face in the negotiations over the future of Chrysler UK, has himself been accused by a top civil servant of "a 180-degree turn".

Sir Peter Carey, Second Permanent Secretary (Industry) at the Department of Industry, told MPs investigating the events surrounding the Chrysler UK rescue that the agreement was reached only after the Americans had changed their position and talked in terms contrary to anything they had said previously.

Giving evidence to the trade and industry subcommittee of the Commons Expenditure Committee, Sir Peter said that Mr Riccardo had arrived in Britain with the intention of off-loading his British company in whole or in part either by liquidation or by handing it over to the Government.

He had later come up with the proposition to hand over the company to the Government with a cash sum of £35m which Sir Peter, the Government found unacceptable.

"We explored every alternative possibility. At a late stage we put to Mr Riccardo that Chrysler might remain in Britain but on wholly different terms which involved them continuing to manage and run Chrysler UK as part of the worldwide empire with some government assistance."

"A new spirit then emerged and out of that came the final agreement with Chrysler. But it was a 180-degree turn from their position."

Just before Christmas Mr Riccardo said in Detroit that the offer to hand over the company plus £35m had formed the basis of all the discussions between the two sides and was finally rejected only when the Government "made a 180-degree turn".

Sir Peter, who played a major role in the protracted negotiations with Chrysler, said yesterday: "Mr Riccardo may not be the preeminent negotiator the

press made him out to be but he is a good negotiator and played his cards close to his chest. He was in earnest to minimize his losses in the United Kingdom."

Sir Peter and a team of officials from the department often faced hostile questioning from the committee.

Earlier, Sir Peter said that no other British car maker had been willing to take on the Chrysler operation. Some parts may have been transferable and this was seriously examined with British Leyland, he added.

The National Enterprise Board was just being established and had a major task in handling British Leyland. Lord Ryder, the NEB chairman, was not consulted about the prospects of viability in the Chrysler case, said Sir Peter. It became quite clear that Lord Ryder and the NEB had no wish to handle the Chrysler situation.

Sir Peter agreed with the view of the Central Policy Review Staff and of the subcommittee that there was overcapacity in the car industry.

He declined to give details of what recommendation he made to Mr Varley, Secretary of State for the Environment, but said that his recommendation to my minister is confidential advice.

Sir Peter and his team were asked about the position of Vauxhall, which like Chrysler UK has incurred losses and has only a small share of the domestic car market.

He said the Government would react with surprise and disappointment if Vauxhall applied for state assistance.

"Surprised because I don't think it is their style and disappointed because we think the strength of General Motors makes it unlikely."

He believed that there would be very strong arguments against giving assistance. It did not follow that the Government must act in the same way in every case. Asked whether he could envisage Vauxhall not being helped in the same way as Chrysler, Sir Peter replied: "I am sure you want an honest answer to that. Yes, I can envisage it."

Employers give warning on short-term policies

By Ronald Embley

The Confederation of British Industry said yesterday that while it was as concerned as anyone else about the level of unemployment, it had told the Government and the National Economic Development Council that it was not in favour of short-term policies. Past experience showed that these had failed.

Yesterday's CBI council meeting was told that the organization had stated strongly at last week's meeting of NEDC that inflation in the present circumstances would be fuelled by short-term policies and that the emphasis must be placed on improving profitability and liquidity.

Sir Campbell Adamson, CBI director-general, said they had told NEDC that the CBI was not in favour of "picking winners", but welcomed the concept of planning by sectors of the economy provided that the policy was more firmly based than had been the case.

The CBI expected Mr Healey's Budget to give form to the Government's industrial strategy agreed at the Chequers meeting in November. This was awaited after the failure in the Queen's Speech to give substance to much of what had been agreed. The CBI would soon start to frame its Budget recommendations.

NEDO chief spells out industry's needs

By Peter Hill

Abolition of price controls on the engineering industry and government-financed stock-building schemes for the machine tools and private sector steel industries were called for yesterday by Sir Ronald McIntosh, director-general of the National Economic Development Office.

In his first speech since last week's National Economic Development Council meeting on the Government's industrial strategy, Sir Ronald emphasized the need for major "pump priming" exercises and made it clear that he saw no way in which the normal operation of market forces could resolve Britain's employment and investment problems.

He said: "If present trends continue, the outlook is bleak. We can expect further contraction in manufacturing industry, increased resistance to productivity improvements and a deteriorating balance of payments—with consequences for our economy and way of life which could be very severe."

Addressing a conference in Dublin, the NEDO chief said ways had to be found to bring forward investment this year. The Government, he said, had taken a step in the right direction with its plans for assisting the British Steel Corporation to build up a stockpile, together with £30m worth of state aid to stimulate manufacturing industry investment.

MPs criticize Coal Board's 'glossy reports'

By Roger Violevoe

Glossy annual reports containing colour pictures, elaborate charts, and in the case of the last National Coal Board report, a full colour, three-page pull-out ordinance survey map of the area around the proposed Selby coalfield, have run into criticisms from MPs.

Annual reports of this sort were no substitute for hard facts and figures, and "smack of a public relations operation" rather than a genuine attempt to inform people about the industry's operations, a committee of MPs yesterday told Sir Derek Erx, chairman of the board.

They quoted specific examples of where his 1974-75 report was lacking in important details. Nowhere was there a breakdown of the profitability of open-cast and deep mining operations.

Although price increases had been a feature of the industry's operations during that year, no mention was made of the size of the rises other than that they were "substantial"—an important omission, they said.

Sir Derek told the select committee on nationalized industries that the changeover from the four-looking official reports in the style of White Papers and Acts of Parliament, had been made at the suggestion of the Government.

Rise of 10pc forecast for this year in western steel output

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Forecasts of a 10 per cent rise in Western world steel consumption this year after last year's steep fall to the lowest production levels since the 1930s were made in Brussels yesterday by the International Iron and Steel Institutes (IISI).

The forecasts, based on returns from the organization's member countries, reflect the optimism throughout the IISI's membership that the worst effects of the recession are now over and that the indications of improved demand in some key sectors of the steel market, and in the United States particularly, will lead to significant improvements in the second half of this year.

Mr Charles Baker, the IISI secretary, told a press conference that a survey among its 27 members gave reason to believe that "the downslide in demand has come to an end and that a turnaround has come for all countries."

A 10 per cent rise in consumption this year compared with last, said the IISI secretary, would indicate an estimated consumption of 470 million tonnes with a 15 per cent rise to about 540 million tonnes taking place in the United States, and an 11 per cent in

crease to 117 million tonnes in the European Economic Community.

He forecast that Japanese steel consumption this year would rise by 7 per cent to 75 million tonnes while in other countries an average rise of 6 per cent was expected.

The IISI forecasts for the United States are based on the fact that the recession there has ended, with steel demand being boosted by increased requirements from the automotive, heavy machinery and energy sectors.

Mr Baker also said the economic recession in Japan appeared to have been reversed.

Commenting on the prospects in the EEC, Mr Baker said economic improvement seemed to be following that in the United States, although there was a time-lag.

Last year world production of raw steel dropped by 8.2 per cent to 651.8 million tonnes from 709.9 million tonnes in 1974—a record year—and was 6.5 per cent down on levels achieved in 1973.

Western world steel production slumped by 14.2 per cent to 424.5 million tonnes, but in Eastern block countries, China and North Korea, production rose by 5.6 per cent to 227.4 million tonnes.

9,000 out in Leyland truck strike

By Clifford Webb

A strike by 9,000 workers has stopped all production at British Leyland's four commercial vehicle plants in Leyland, Lancashire. The entire manual labour force walked out yesterday in protest at the suspension of three workers who included a shop steward.

The stoppage coincided with a management warning to the 30,000 workers in the British Leyland truck and bus group that 1976 is going to be a tough year with even more aggressive selling by the importers.

A Leyland spokesman said the men were suspended for three days as a disciplinary measure. The incidents which led up to this action were committed on different dates and were not connected. He insisted that the agreed dispute procedures had been followed to the letter.

R. W. Shakespeare writes: Assembly line inspectors at Leyland Cars' Austin-Morris plant at Cowley, Oxford, voted yesterday to continue their four-month-old ban on overtime and work to rule. The decision is an extremely embarrassing one for officials of the two unions to which the inspectors belong—the engineering workers' union and the Transport and General Workers' Union—since union representatives agreed in negotiations with the company that there should be a return to normal working.

Attack on councils' home loans

By Margaret Stone

Mr Leonard Williams, the chief general manager of the Nationwide building society, has launched a campaign to attack the traditional preserves of building societies.

"There is no case," he said, "for local authorities to raise capital to build in a speculative way. The local authorities' role should be to provide a service to the community, not to act as a speculative investor."

He went on to say that with the assistance now being extended to local authorities by the building societies, the probability is that the reduced and more normal amount of £20m which local authorities have been authorized to lend in 1976-77 will be sufficient to meet the needs of those classes of house purchasers for whom local authorities are the appropriate lenders.

In fact, very little of the £100m which the building society movement earmarked, at the request of the Government last year, for borrowers who would normally use local authority-provided finance has been taken up.

Commenting on this situation Mr L. Williams said that recent studies have established that about two thirds of the loans made by local authorities during 1974-75 amounted to some £460m—were loans which would have satisfied building society criteria.

The major inroads that local authorities made into the housing finance market during 1974-75 when they accounted for 12 per cent of new home loans, were financed in the main by borrowings at the high interest rates then prevailing. During this period building societies were having difficulties in attracting funds.

Over the past 12 months societies have had more money to lend and they have been able to satisfy most of the types of borrowers who, in 1974, were obliged to go to local authorities.

Financial news, page 22

State plan for R & D strategy on energy soon

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

A strategy for energy research and development is to be produced soon by Dr Walter Marshall, chief scientist at the Department of Energy, a junior minister of the Department promised in London yesterday.

The speaker was Lord Lovell-Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy, who was opening a day-long energy conference organized by a group of eight leading professional institutions.

North Sea oil and gas, Lord Lovell-Davis said, are certainly not the solution to our problems. The demand for energy must be cut while the professional engineers worked on "the formidable problems of securing alternative sources of energy."

Industry, commerce and agriculture together consumed almost half of all the energy used in the United Kingdom, he stressed. A 10 per cent saving in national energy consumption would be worth almost £1,000m at current import prices.

Tax revenue last year up 33.9 pc

Britain's inland Revenue collected £14,235.8m in the 1974-75 financial year, 33.9 per cent more than the £10,634.4m in 1973-74, according to the latest Report of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Inland Revenue.

The 1975-76 estimate is very close to the Budget estimate of £14,300m. The yield of income tax was £10,270.9m, while that of corporation tax was £2,858.7m.

BP to raise \$150m

British Petroleum is to raise a further \$150m (£74m) through the issue of guaranteed debentures in the United States, where last year the oil group successfully concluded debt issues totalling \$1,900m (£936m).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PO Telephones and non-stop service

From Sir William Lithgow
Sir, The Post Office Corporation was established so that, among other things, telecommunications could be put on a commercial footing.

I find that no subscribers may have their telephone repaired without normal working hours, no matter how much they may be prepared to pay, except where they are classified as an emergency service, concerned with life and death.

As the chairman of an independent ferry company providing a seven-day service to the public, I have taken this matter up with the chairman of the Scottish Telecommunications Board. He assures me that not even British Airways would have their main booking office "reconnected" until Monday morning were it to be isolated after hours on Friday evening.

Clearly, the integrity of service we offer to the public cannot be better than is available from the equipment upon which we rely. My company would not

install essential equipment supplied by a commercial concern, for which service was not available on a seven-day basis. The Post Office, however, are able to exploit their monopoly situation.

There is a strange inconsistency in their policy, since their own service is a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week one, and their switchboards, but not their staffed departments, are staffed accordingly. In our part of the world, the standard of service, from operators in particular, is outstanding, but owing to technical advances it is no longer possible for them to intercept incoming calls, or divert them to other lines. The resulting inconvenience to the public, and those like us who endeavour to serve the public properly, can be enormous. It would seem sensible that subscribers should be given the choice of renting a five-day or a seven-day service. Other utilities, such as electricity and

water, do in fact give us a seven-day service as a matter of course; but there is a wide divergence in the degree of dependence that different subscribers place on their telephone. For many of us, we have no telephone over the weekend and there is no need for one in an empty office. Can we be assured that the Post Office will take immediate action to ensure that in this respect it provides a service on a commercial basis to those who have a commercial need?

I wonder whether the chairman of British Airways is aware of the policies of a brother state corporation chairman; but then some of us have noticed that even British Airways try to handle when they do not have a monopoly.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM J. LITHGOW
Drums,
Langbank,
Renfrewshire, PA14 5YH.
January 14.

Waste disposal and conservation

From Mr Henry S. Gilbert
Sir, The first report of the Waste Management Advisory Council, appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment a year ago, has just been published and draws attention to a number of issues which in the brief life of the council have become crucial.

The council recognizes that heavy capital investment would not be desirable at the present time, especially where technological development may lead rapidly to obsolescence. It also prudently examines problems with environmental as well as economic consequences in mind.

One issue which justifies the wide consideration is the disposal of waste by landfill which can both dispose and conserve, and the land, some of which is very unsightly, can be reclaimed and brought into use.

My council, which includes representatives of 18 professional institutions and has over 50 public and other bodies as corresponding members, drew attention to another aspect of the problem in their

report: *Derection of Land* which indicated that even by the official definition, which by no means includes all derelict land, there was in many parts of the country, an annual net addition to derelict land which was regrettable from the environmental, social and economic viewpoints.

It is probable that a careful consideration of the problem by local authorities could, in many cases, prevent or postpone heavy expenditure on other disposal methods, greatly improve their areas and make land available for us. There is also the opportunity, which it is to be hoped will be of short duration, to employ the people and idle plant and the availability of grants for the reclamation of derelict land gives the opportunity.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY S. GILBERT,
Chairman, Professional Institutions Council for Conservation,
12 Great George Street,
Parliament Square,
London SW1P 3AD.

Surcharges on package holidays

From Mr W. T. Rodger
Sir, I am sure that the letter from Mr G. Blunt referring to currency surcharges on package tours (January 14) really refers to 1975 invoices, and that he has booked a holiday for March, 1976.

March 1976 invoices would form part of those tour programmes produced to tourists in winter 1975/76—that is, operating from November through March and with most tour operators these brochures were based on the world value of the pound as tabulated in the *Financial Times* of March 4, 1975, at which time the lira was 1,525 to the pound. On January 13, 1976, this same table gave the value of the pound to the lira as 1,525, which is an effective fluctuation of 10.03 per cent.

On the basis that Mr Blunt's holiday was booked for 1975, the hotel accommodation was 7,000 lire a day, irrespective of transfers or any supplementary charges. The total would be as follows:

14 x 7,000 equals 98,000
1,525 equals £64.26—March 1975

14 x 7,000 equals 98,000
1,535 equals £70.71—January 1976

A difference of £6.43, or 10 per cent on the costed value of the accommodation.

It is rare that as much as 10 per cent of the holiday price would relate to sterling, but it should also be borne in mind that, if the particular package were based on a charterflight, then the hotel involved would have passed to the tour operator their increased costs related not only to their foreign exchange charges at the Italian destination, but to overflying charges and to fuel costs which latter are based on United States dollar rates.

The imposition of surcharges is a costly and time-consuming operation, but with variances of this magnitude they are an economic necessity.

Incidentally, the variance for Spain over the same period (March 4, 1975, to January 13, 1976) on the same basis is 11.43 per cent.

Yours faithfully,
W. T. RODGER,
General Manager,
Flair Holidays,
Trust Houses Forte Travel Division,
104 New Bond Street,
London W1Y 0AE.
January 14.

Uniting the engineering profession

From Mr L. T. Griffith
Sir, Two of the most powerful members of the Council of Engineering Institutions have come forward with a new plan for uniting the engineering profession, something the CEI has tried to do for more than a decade—and failed to achieve. The Mechanicals and Electricals have thrown out a lifeline with proposals which will bring radical changes to the CEI, as outlined by your correspondent, Mr Derek Harris (January 12).

The main proposal could confer direct voting powers on some non-chartered institutions not at present members of CEI. This is basically a good idea. Support is also given to establishing a Royal Society of Engineers. But we would remind them that there is already the 122-year-old Society of Engineers, Britain's third oldest professional body.

Could we believe it is their intention to wish for such a prefix for us, the sternest and most constant critic of the now discredited CEI? The plan also calls for a Corporation of Chartered Engineers to replace CEI. But would it do that or would CEI simply operate under another name to make the same blunders that have

marked its disastrous path for 13 years?

The Institution of Electrical Engineers has already given notice of its intention to withdraw from CEI and now, with the Mechanicals, is trying to bring about the union of the profession. It is important that whatever plan becomes effective there must be now thinking in depth. What is needed is an organization for truly professional engineers, not scientists or academics.

It is appalling that British engineers, who have been leaders in the various disciplines throughout the world, cannot unify their own profession instead of crying to form a closed shop as CEI did so clumsily.

In general, while supporting any moves to unite the profession on realistic lines, we believe the solution lies in a state register of engineers, chartered and non-chartered, selected on their merits and on the quality of their examinations.

Yours faithfully,
L. T. GRIFFITH,
Secretary,
The Society of Engineers,
Artillery Mansions,
75 Victoria Street,
Westminster SW1E 0HY.
January 15.

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Dorman Smith Holdings Ltd

	6 months to 30 Sept. 1975	6 months to 30 Sept. 1974	For the full year to 31 Mar 1975
TURNOVER	£,000 5,886	£,000 4,562	£,000 10,724
EXPORTS	1,392	1,054	2,951
PRE-TAX PROFIT	1,353	966	2,435
TAXATION	704	502	1,282

Mr T. G. F. Atherton, Chairman, Dorman Smith Holdings Ltd.

- Results for the half year represent further substantial progress.
- Interim dividend 0.85p per share.
- Steps taken during the last twelve months have resulted in considerable improvement in the liquidity of your Company.
- All Shareholders and Group employees have recently been informed of my intention to emigrate to the Isle of Man. I intend to remain Chairman of the Company.
- Successive Governments now seem well on their way to the achievement of the only objective consistent with their industrial policies of recent years, namely the ruin of the British economy and the relative impoverishment of the whole population.
- It is, under present circumstances, virtually impossible to forecast the results for the year—nevertheless, your Company will exert itself to the utmost in order to overcome whatever further ingenious hurdles the Government may put in its path.

Dorman Smith

Copies of the Interim Statement may be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. K. F. Blackshaw F.C.A., Dorman Smith Holdings Ltd., Atherton Works, Blackpool Road, Preston PR2 2DQ.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Thorn holds the line

Some through the decline in coming on electrical meter shape than competitors. Despite deterioration on the pre-tax profits ahead steadily to £31.5m.

burden out of the look set to re-shine that has clearly lacking as bull market, as electrical goods to recover later in the year.

Thorn's third quarter on the corresponding last year, even colour television a terrible time scallor's easing of se controls last in the nick of time short-time working quarter.

as been the main television retail counting for the 20 per cent value of instalments overall are in last year due to the admini- involved in the changes of VAT.



Sir Jules Thorn, chairman of Thorn Electrical, poor conditions in the colour television business.

Profits

A fool's paradise?

Things may have been more promising on the economic front, but the colour television business has reflected it. As far as some investors are concerned recession, inflation and liquidity problems might all be things of the past. This happy breed is, however, deluding itself. Last year's debate on inflation accounting demonstrated with uncomfortable clarity just how unrealistic are the assumptions upon which our notions of profitability have been based; and stockbrokers W. Greenwell have expanded the message and hammered it home in a new analysis, *The Profit Shortfall*. In essence, Greenwell says we are all living in a fool's paradise.

Greenwell estimates that before depreciation, interest and profit generated by the United Kingdom industrial and commercial companies will amount to some £12,750m in 1975—a figure which, they say, is almost £8,000m short of the total necessary to enable companies to replace stocks, replace fixed assets, service their debt, make a "normal" contribution to the Exchequer, allow for "normal" (3 per cent per annum) growth in capacity and stocks, and provide a "modest but positive" current dividend on the savings invested in these companies. The £8,000m shortfall is, moreover, struck after allowing some £2,000m for the profit loss attributable to the year's severe recession.

After allowing for the replacement of assets at real cost, Greenwell estimates that profits before tax totalled £1,370m last year—which was less than companies actually paid in tax, even after allowing for reliefs, deferrals and so on. The future performance of the "us-can" is being maintained, even though the extent of the problem is obscured—on the one hand by higher nominal profits—thanks to increases in prices, the depreciation of assets, the three-day week in the comparable period and the time lag in the impact of recession—and on the other by the improvement in liquidity created by sharp destocking and some downward in the physical volume of capital spending.

And the immediate question which these conclusions provoke is, of course, this: if industry cannot make enough profits to replace what it is using even now, what can happen once expansion is the

order of the day? Greenwell hold that the obvious method of increasing profitability — by allowing prices to rise to cover the shortfall—would risk both deepening recession and refueling inflation. They are, in favour, rather, of adopting Sandilands' CCA principles for price control and fiscal purposes, and eliminating the productivity deduction. At the same time they point out that the cyclical upswing for which we are now heading provides a first rate opportunity to concentrate on achieving basic reductions in unit costs.

Cutting the rate of inflation will alleviate the problem to some extent, although attempts to do it by holding back prices with no allowance for the time lag as cost reductions work through is merely exacerbating the situation. This shortfall is, however, now much more than a matter of inflation alone, although it is the effect which the inflation of the past couple of years has had upon companies' balance sheets which has left them in so poor a condition for expansion.

Come next autumn, that will be showing through in the report from companies unless the Government takes measures to improve profitability in the meantime. And although there are signs that the importance of profits is now noted in Whitehall, so far there is little to show that anything more than lip service is politically acceptable.

Union Discount Lengthening the book

First Alexanders and now Union Discount have reported a fall in profits. The latter's books in 1975 in Union's case up from £557m to £786m. At the last reporting date of December 10 there had actually been a contraction in the overall discount market book of the previous year, so, unless the other discount houses have been back-peddling hard, it would seem that December marked a significant turning point for the market as a whole.

Certainly, as far as Union was concerned, the closing weeks of 1975 saw a concerted effort to lengthen the maturity of the book, both in terms of extending the average life on holdings of short assets (from 62 to 80 days), and of moving into long. Year-end holdings were £31m, compared to none a year ago. This strategic shift, taken in anticipation of falling interest rates, has already proved highly profitable. But it came too late to affect 1975's results, which were disastrous. The company's progressive squeeze on running margins, complicated by two rises in minimum lending rate in the autumn. The combination produced a deteriorating profit picture, with the second half quite well down on the first.

For the moment the deterioration has halted, despite the continued negligible running margins, and a strong first half already looks assured. The future performance of gilts is badly misread. Union at least is viewing its gilts very much on a day-to-day basis, with its overall holdings strictly limited by its capacity to sell them quickly once it serves the turn.

This implies some constraint upon Union's ability to make profit, but it should also limit its vulnerability in a year which, at present, looks as though it could be very difficult should interest rates stop falling. On this basis it might be unwise to expect too much from the shares, yielding 7.4 per cent at 355p.

Final: 1975 (1974)
Capitalization £26.6m
Net profits £3.07m (£3.57m)
Dividend gross 26.4p (24.0p)

What makes the latest Italian crisis different

John Earle

For many Italians the lira crisis has blown up like a sudden storm at a time when the recession was generally believed to be bottoming out and recovery was confidently predicted for this year.

Economic indicators have been generally favourable. The balance of payments in 1975 improved out of all recognition over 1974, with the non-oil trade balance revealing a healthy surplus. Against a shock fall in August of 22.1 per cent in industrial production over 12 months earlier, the October decline of 5.4 per cent brought hope for a turnaround in coming months.

The forecasts are that this year should yield a marked improvement on the 1975 estimated fall of 3.5 to 3.8 per cent in real terms in gross national income. Inflation has been controlled, if not conquered.

Added to that, the Italians have a reputation for staying afloat in crises thanks to a flexibility and resilience bred through generations of fending for themselves under government which did not govern. Frequent government crises, averaging more than one a year, have made little impact on the economy, as the public knew that after a ritual dance of con- siderable length, the government would be patched up which in its inability to achieve substantial results would differ little from the previous one. In fact, there was a time when the fall of a government could even strengthen the economy, as the government that the politicians were temporarily unable to impede the activities of industry and business.

In recent weeks, however, some signs had become visible in the economy that the confidence was out of place. The balance of payments, after recording a 97,100m lire deficit in September, and a 38,000m lire surplus in October, jumped to a 377,000m lire (about £262m) deficit in November.

Current account appeared about to take a greater strain as industry restocked with imports to prepare for the predicted recovery. The feeling is that this time it may be a different kind of crisis, before by the political outlook. The realization that the Communist Party is strong and well organized enough to enter government almost when it decides has aroused numerous fears, particularly about the Italian version of communism stands for a market economy and would encourage progress in some sectors where the record of Christian Democrat administrations since the war has been dismal. The communists would further medium and small businesses—whatever their attitude towards multinational—would try to revive the stock exchanges which successive governments have allowed to deteriorate into a state of torpor.

In general, they call for more honest administrative and accounting practices and they have significantly taken full-page advertisements in newspapers recently to publish a statement of the party's balance sheet for 1975. This appears plausible enough under Italian conditions, but suspicious motives among wide sections of opinion at home and abroad. Symptomatically, reports have been circulating that the ignition point of the crisis this time has been the United States rather than European markets, particularly Switzerland, traditionally the bank hole for Italian capital. While the classic outflow of lire to Switzerland is generally believed to have increased again since the government resigned, attention has been aroused here by reports of apprehension in the United States about the degree

of exposure of certain American banks in Italy.

Against the energetic communist efforts to improve their image, the government parties have done little to improve their credibility. The recipe for the success of Signor Aldo Moro's coalition has been to announce a grandiose package of medium-term measures which, it is promised, will ensure capital investment of £5,000,000m lire (about £17,850m) in industry and in the Mezzogiorno.

The package has met a generally sceptical reaction among industrialists, bankers and trade unionists. Italians are used to their governments announcing massive allocations of funds which are frequently not spent for the purposes for which they were intended.

The package is based on shelling out moneys for specific sectors, purposes or incentives, but does not adopt an overall, planned approach, for planning is something which has had little place in government thinking since ill-fated attempts to produce five-year plans by the centre-left coalition of the late 1960s.

The future of the medium-term package, which has yet to go through parliament, will in any case depend on what new government is formed.

The public sector as typified by the vast IRI (Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale) group used to be held up as one of the main achievements of the Italian system, since it combines the advantages of private management standards and private risk capital with state support. Professor Giuseppe Petrilli, IRI's director, has recently said that its image has been tarnished both by the recession and by scandals affecting certain corporations.

A Government appointed commission is shortly due to report on how to reform the system and the Government among its plans would allocate some 4,000,000 lire to increase the public sector corporations' capital endowment funds—money which critics maintain would to a large extent be absorbed by repaying public sector companies' debts. Factors such as these all tend to undermine confidence in the economic outlook.

Nowhere has the absence of effective government been more marked than in the rescue of industrial companies in difficulties. The most publicized case has been that of British Leyland's Innocent Mini assembly plant at Milan.

The company announced that it was in trouble in July and intended to slim the workforce from 4,500 to 3,000. The unions rejected this and, while government mediation obtained a temporary stay, ministers failed to come up with any long-term solution, so that the British parent decided in November to put the company into liquidation.

The workers, who are staging a sit-in, have been without any remuneration since December and the situation threatens to become explosive. Similar situations have loomed up among a host of medium and small firms throughout the country, especially those owned by foreign interests.

The big union confederations have so far succeeded in damping down pressures from their membership for large-scale industrial unrest. Negotiations for the renewal of labour contracts have on the whole been more protracted than in past years and have yet to come to the crunch, notably that for the metalworkers. But it will be tough and go if the country is to avoid outbreaks of violence before the expected recovery gets under way.

President Ford stakes all on an austere budget

Frank Vogl

President Ford has presented Congress with a budget that at best may be described as austere. It is one that would generally be seen as deflationary, calling for a rise in government spending of about 5.5 per cent at a time when inflation is expected to increase by about 6 per cent.

The budget would actually produce a small surplus if calculated on the assumption that there was full employment (which is defined in the United States as an unemployment rate of 4 per cent).

It seeks to make up for the significant reduction in real terms in defence spending over the past eight years by shaving expenditure on a large number of non-defence items. At the same time, it is designed to pave the way for a series of annual budgets which will gradually reduce unemployment, bring government revenues and spending back into balance and ensure a modest and steady rate of economic growth unhampered by high inflation.

No assessment of an American budget is meaningful without some comment on its prospects of being accepted by Congress. The budget is no more than an expression of the President's policies and priorities and Congress always changes it.

This particular one, which involves no immediate measures to reduce the high rate of unemployment, is likely to be altered substantially.

The President is likely to remain inflexible on his demand for defence spending of \$101,100m. He will stress that this is the minimum requirement and that in real terms it actually represents a 33 per cent cut from the volume of defence outlay in the 1969 fiscal year.

President Ford will also probably make ready use of his veto, just as he did on 17 occasions last year, to block efforts by Congress to expand the social welfare programmes envisaged. Here his main argument will be that social welfare spending has grown at a dramatic rate in recent years (non-defence outlay has risen by 55 per cent since 1969 in real terms), that this is the root cause of the present large budget deficits and that, in his opinion, it is one of the prime causes of inflation.

He will probably be in uncompromising mood when the real battles with Congress get under way in the next couple of months. He will almost certainly be mindful of the fact that sticking to his programme will go down well with Republicans across the country and so improve his chances of beating Ronald Reagan for the nomination as his party's presidential candidate.

Later in the year the President may well be more willing

that their fate in Congress cannot be determined.

The Administration's chief economist, Mr. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, and Mr. William Simon, the Treasury Secretary, have impressed upon the President the need to go for only moderate growth to avoid a sharp rise in inflation which might eventually bring about another recession. The President has accepted these views and believes that the American people, too, will accept them in election year, rather than accept the more deflationary programme of the Democrats.

At best the budget figures announced by Mr. Ford are rough estimates, as illustrated by events in fiscal year 1976, where the budget deficit looks like ending some \$23,000m higher at \$76,000m than the forecast made a year ago.

However, assuming that the new figures are accurate, that Congress will accept in full the new budget and the new programmes—and refrain from introducing new ones in the years ahead—then the long-term outlook for the American economy looks bright. These assumptions are so great that at best one must look at the Administration's economic projections as being more reflective of the President's hopes and as statements of his economic philosophy than as realistic estimates.

The new budget contains the forecast that the fiscal year 1977 deficit of \$43,000m will be halved in 1978 and transformed into a modest \$9,600m surplus in 1979 and show a large \$75,500m surplus in 1981.

Unemployment is seen as gradually declining from the present 8 per cent level to average 7.7 per cent in 1976 and 6.9 per cent in 1977, then falling steadily to 4.9 per cent in 1981. The consumer price index is seen as declining from the average 1975 level of 9.1 per cent to 6.3 per cent this year, 6 per cent next year and so down to 4 per cent in 1981.

Finally, gross national product is seen as moving in real terms from a decline of 2 per cent last year to growth rates of 6.2 per cent this year, 5.7 per cent next year and an average of about 6.5 per cent per year from the start of 1978.

Above all, the forecast decline in the unemployment rate will fail to satisfy the Democrats in Congress.

There is now a grave danger that the President has taken such a restrictive line that Congress will react by forcing through programmes that are too stimulative. Such action would smash the hopes of eventual balanced budgets, modest inflation and sustained economic growth for the rest of the decade that are expressed in this new budget.

Scandinavian Bank Limited



Extract from Audited Accounts 31st December 1975

	1975 £000	1974 £000
Authorised Capital	25,000	25,000
Issued Capital	20,250	14,250
Retained Profits	5,615	3,972
Total Shareholders Funds	25,865	18,222
Current and Deposit Accounts	441,497	304,945
Cash at Bankers, Money at Call and Short Notice	124,601	81,932
Deposits with Banks	101,207	63,358
Loans and Advances:-		
(a) under one year	116,048	91,269
(b) over one year	124,469	91,398
Total Assets	486,822	341,933
Profit before Taxation and extraordinary items	4,753	3,176
Profit after Taxation and extraordinary items	2,213	1,351
Proposed Dividend	570	400

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Shareholders
Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken (Sweden) Bergen Bank (Norway)
Den Danske Landmandsbank (Denmark) Den Danske Provinsbank (Denmark)
Landsbanki Islands (Iceland) Union Bank of Finland (Finland)
Skanska Banken (Sweden)

Business Diary: Falklands factors • The Director's diet

well managing director of Falkland Islands not used to seeing his own back yard, but seems to be happy. He's had 25 years with The Falkland Islands Company and is only the fifth managing director they've had since Queen Victoria granted the charter in 1851.

The company sank out of public view somewhat when it was taken over in 1972 by being taken over by Dundee, Perth & London Securities, in turn gobbled up by Charrington, Gardner, Lockett.

Mitchell is now trying to do what he can in London to keep the islands British through the Falkland Islands Committee, a body which includes sympathetic City shipping and wool interests.

In the islands themselves, he says, it's hard for the people to have their say. The "government", the executive committee, is controlled by the Governor, Neville French, who has to follow the Foreign Office line of not annoying the Argentines.

The government-controlled Falkland Islands Broadcasting Service, it is alleged, clamps down on items likely to upset the monitoring Argentines, while the only newspaper, the government-subsidized monthly Falkland Islands Times, closed

company knows what to do: it can claim on the insurance but, as both a representative of Lloyd's and Lloyd's brokers, the company would investigate its own claim.

Should the islanders decide over their company mutiny to



Photograph: John Manning
Frank Mitchell of The Falkland Islands Company yesterday.

recently when the editor joined the increasing number of people leaving the colony.

So little is known about the islanders here, Mitchell says that he's turned up at functions and found people surprised that he isn't black. Even the BBC has asked him if the islanders speak English: most are of English or Scottish stock.

return to Britain then they'll probably book their passage through a company agency.

Slimmer volume

Readers of the January edition of *The Director*, the magazine of the Institute of Directors, will see today that the monthly is paler and smaller than usual and there's more (or rather less) to come.

The normal four-colour cover has been replaced by a two-colour unillustrated design, page size has been trimmed by about half an inch and there are 84 pages compared with 144 in the January 1975 issue.

There are to be fewer contributions from *The Director's* stable of distinguished outside writers, and by March, says editor-in-chief George Bull, the magazine will no longer be printed on glossy paper and will be more like a news publication with greater emphasis on "pace and readability".

The idea is now to make a profit on the publication, in line with director-general Jan Rildred's cost-cutting plans. Opinions vary on the way the cost-cutting measures are evaluated, but the facts are that last year *The Director* cost about £440,000 to produce and earned about £350,000 in advertising revenue, leaving a deficit (depending on your point of view) of £90,000.

In 1976 it is hoped nearly to halve the cost of production, while maintaining a reasonable volume of advertising. The institute is budgeting for *The Director* to make a "substantial" contribution to its income this year.

It is given away to Institute of

Director members and sold to outsiders at £1.25.

Members who from last December have been faced with an increase in subscription from £14 to £30 may argue with the economies. There may be some dissent within the institute about the wisdom of the cuts so soon after the rise in subscription rates.

Exasperation

Geoffrey Atherton, chairman of Preston engineers Dorman Smith Holdings, yesterday announced profits after tax for the six months to September up from £464,000 to £649,000.

This didn't stop him, however, from telling shareholders and employees: "By comparison with recent British governments, Robin Hood was a bungling amateur—but at least his motives were clearly understandable. His overhauls were low—he was accurate in his identification of rich and poor and his cost effectiveness was infinitely greater than that of the politicians and civil servants we in British industry endure today".

Although remaining chairman Atherton is nevertheless emigrating to the Isle of Man.

The 1977 American budget, published yesterday, is already doing its bit to reduce inflation. At 6½p, it weighs in a quarter of a pound (4 per cent) lighter than last year's. It also appears at the same time that President Ford is establishing a commission to produce papers on reducing paperwork.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

All fall down as list of worries lengthens

Excess factors played a more significant part than of late in weakening the tone of the London stock market yesterday. Concern over Lebanon and Angola, a possible dispute in the steel industry and the effect of the unemployment figures on the Government's strategy for dealing with inflation brought a fair amount of selling in the morning session. There was even a rumour that an American ship had been sunk off Angola.

Post-lunch trading saw a half-hearted attempt at a rally but any thoughts that this would be substantiated were soon scotched by a weak Wall Street opening and prices closed at the

Monday and Tuesday, with persistent rumours of increased tension in Angola and the Middle East contributing to the selling pressure. "Shorts" were 1 point off at the opening, showed signs of rallying, but then fell back once more. Prices hardened a touch at the close to leave losses on the day of 1 to 1 point.

"Longs" opened well and moved ahead in early dealing. However, profit-taking and cover selling over the international situation led to heavy selling and eventually prices were up to 1 point off. The market was very active.

Food shares came under pressure early in the day but issues like Tate & Lyle, at 268p ahead of today's results, Cavendish 129p and Lyons "A" 142p all rallied to overnight levels. But Booker McConnell 154p, SW Berisford 140p and Reckitt & Coleman 338p were left 7p, 6p and 5p lower respectively. Among the industrial leaders the worst was Glaxo which slid 7p to 378p. ICI fared little better ending 5p off, at 355p, while Beechams 346p, Courtaulds 157p and Unilever 428p all shed 4p or more in the day. British American Tobacco was five points off at 350p. Boots lost 6p to 131p in stores and Dunlop, in spite of buoyant exports, stayed a weak spot losing another 3p to 75p. Speculative support added

another 2p to 200p for Furness Withy (making 11p in two days) while other shares involved in takeover situations, either real or rumoured, were Weston Pharmaceutical, 11p better to 541p, William Baird, where

Tobacco watchers are now beginning to think of switching back from Imperial Group where the yield is good and the P/E high, into Rothmans where the yield is also good but the P/E low. Rothmans also earns most of its money abroad. The switch seems sensible but remember that Imperial has a wide market share, and Rothmans a small one.

fresh talk added 2p to 100p and Lof, which traded firmly at 351p. Oil shares were particularly upset by the position in the Lebanon—the worst hit being the major BP, off 41p to 580p, and Shell which lost a full 10 points to 380p. The steadier metal price helped gold shares to halt their recent slide and in some cases there were gains of up to 75p.

Cash calls by way of rights did no harm to Wolseley Hughes, up 8p to 134p, and Carpets International, which added 1p to 99p. The weakest of the clearing banks were National Westminster, 275p,

and Midland, 302p, both of which ended the session 3p down. Among discounters, Union's results disappointed and were marked down 10p to 355p with General & National also easier, by 5p to 295p. Insurances were, in the main, 2p or 3p off, but in properties Haslemere Estates stood out against the trend, gaining 2p to 210p. NEPC showed further reaction after Tuesday's meeting by shedding another 2p to 88p and news of a purchase did not help Great Portland and the price dipped 4p to 244p.

There was support for both Hickson & Welch, up 4p to 324p, and Tilbury Contracting, firm at 255p, but a bout of profit taking left star performer Weyburn Engineering 11p down to 495p.

Though results from Thorn were up to expectations, the "B" shares fell 10p to 234p while Rank "A" ahead of today's figures, shed 10p to

170p. The "A" shares of Dorman Smith firmed 2p to 106p after figures, and Kenning Motor traded well at 54p. But many other companies reporting lost ground. Typecasters were 10p off, Allied Colloids 4p to 40p, Leisure Caravan 3p to 82p, and Richardson, Westgarth 21p to 481p. After hours the tone stayed easier with leaders losing another 1p or so.

Equity turnover on January 20 was £66.81m (17,656 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Barclays Bank, Shell, Unilever, Midland Bank, BP, Thorn, Marks & Spencer, GKN, Dunlop, GEC, Grand Metropolitan, Commercial Union Bank, Charrington, Manganese Bronze, Hanson, Truena Union Discount, Carpets International and Furness Withy.

Latest dividends

Company	Ord	Year	Year's	Prev
(and par values)	div	ago	pay	year
Amal Distilled (10p) Int	0.65	0.35	2/3	1.38
Burroughs (55) Int	17	15	7/5	60
Castle Hotel (100) Int	1.4	0.8	—	0.9
Catell Trust (5p) Int	Nil	0.08	—	0.19
Comb Insurance (5p) Int	16.5	15	7/4	2.09
Dorman Smith (20p) Int	0.85	0.79	3/4	14.24
Equinox (5p) Int	1.2	0.8	3/4	6.7
Idris Hydraulics Int	3	3.7	5/3	3.16
Kenning Motor (25p) Int	2.07	1.82	8/1	2.25
Leisure Caravan (25p) Int	1.67	1.05	27/2	1.52
Lid Electrical (25p) Int	1.10	0.95	26/2	1.76
Mears Bros (25p) Int	0.95	0.67	26/2	1.52
Peterborough Mtr (25p) Int	0.8	0.73	2/4	1.76
Prop Security (25p) Int	1.57	1.2	3/4	1.53
Richardson (50p) Int	1.05	1.05	12/3	3.57
Scots American (50p) Int	1.2	1.15	—	3.57
Strong & Filsen (25p) Int	0.69	0.58	—	5.52
Thermogrowth (25p) Int	2.37	2.32	25/3	3.56
Thorn (25p) Int	10.16	11.08	—	16.08
Watson (25p) Int	1.34	1.1	2/4	2.24
Wilkins & Mitchell (25p) Int	Nil	0.73	—	2.24

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on peace per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross, multiply the net dividend by 1.54. Cents a share. Excludes bonus 0.37p, adjusted for scrip. † Forecast on increased capital. ** On higher capital.

bottom. The FT Index had lost 7.4 by 1 pm, cut this back to 5.9 two hours later, but by the close was down again to 383.4, a drop of 7.8 on the day.

Once again signs had an eventful session. The market was much more nervous than on

Reliant awaits new year

Five months ago a first half loss for Reliant Motor Group, the three-wheeled motors and Scimitar cars concern, was regarded as inevitable by Sir Julian Hodge, chairman. So, though turnover rose slightly from £10.48m to £10.79m, the group duly went £419,000 into the red in the half year to August 31 against a pre-tax profit of £200,000.

Reliant's engineering interests brought in a profit but the motor side lost some £436,000 and there was a further "considerable" drop in press operations. Both loss-makers were hit by recession. However, Hodgkinson Bennis and Smith Forgings traded well. There is again no interim dividend.

Recovery prospects centre on the next financial year to end February, 1977. Meanwhile losses in the motor company will be halved when the model change programme is completed at the start of 1976-77. By then, all production will be of newly introduced vehicles for which the response has been encouraging.

Though further losses have been incurred by press operations in the second-half year, these have been greatly reduced. Reliant is 77 per cent owned by Hodge group, in turn wholly owned by Standard & Chart-ered Group.

Nationwide assets up 23 pc

Assets of the Nationwide Building Society grew by 23.3 per cent to £190.5m in 1975. Mortgage lending was more than doubled at £406m compared with £239m and at the end of 1975 the society held liquid assets of 22 per cent.

Mr Leonard Williams, chief general manager of Nationwide, said yesterday that there was little prospect of any immediate adjustment in building society rates. He added that the present mortgage rate was not inhibiting buyers and that the current prospects for the home buyer were good.

GUINNESS PEAT GROUP LIMITED

Interim Statement for the year ending 30th April 1976.

The board have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 3p per share net. This compares with an interim dividend at the rate of 2p per share net which was paid in respect of the previous year. The intention to increase the amount of the interim dividend was advised to shareholders when the board's proposals for early conversion of the company's 8% Convertible Subordinated Unsecured Loan Stock were circulated to them in October 1975. As shareholders will be aware those proposals were approved and accordingly the dividend is payable on the share capital as increased by the conversion of that Loan Stock.

The effect of the Loan Stock conversion was to increase the capital and reserves of the group, which stood at £15.7m at the 30th April 1975, by £9,691,681 and the share capital of the company is now as follows:—

	Authorised	Issued
	£	£
300,000 4.2% Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each fully paid	300,000	300,000
25,292,288 Ordinary Shares of 25p each fully paid	6,323,072	6,323,072
411,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each paid up	102,750	2,055
4,298,712 Unclassified Shares of 25p each	1,074,178	—
	£7,800,000	£6,625,127

Whilst it is not possible at this stage to make any firm forecast of the results for the full year, all the group's divisions, both trading and banking, have successfully come through the difficult economic conditions of 1975 and the prospects for continuing expansion in 1976 are encouraging. The board expect that the profits available for distribution for the year ending 30th April 1976 will justify the payment of the maximum dividends permissible under current legislation.

	rate per share	net of tax credit	£
Dividend details			
Year ending 30th April 1976			
Interim payable 5th March (record date 6th February)	3.0p		£759,015
Year ended 30th April 1975			
Interim paid 4th April 1975	2.0p		372,372
Final paid 31st October 1975	5.6225p		1,077,944
	7.6225p		£1,450,316

Registered Office:

32 St. Mary at Hill, London EC3R 8DH Tel: 01-623 3111 & 9333



Year to 30th September (£'000)	1975	1974	1973
Turnover (excluding VAT)	26,496	19,815	18,524
Profit before tax	4,213	3,425	3,845
Ordinary dividend per share	4.67p	4.38p	4.23p

* I am pleased to report a record turnover up 33.7% and Profit before taxation increased by 23%. The total dividend is the maximum allowed under present regulations.

* The increased turnover of our licensed houses reflects the success of our capital investment programme. Our future financial requirements are well covered by existing borrowing facilities.

* During the year we entered into a co-partnership arrangement with Harp Lager Limited whose high quality lager we keg and bottle.

* The brand of beer drinkers to take more head of the distinctive flavour of our beer can only enhance our sales.

* The compact area in which we trade and the good order of our production units puts us in a strong position to control the effects of inflation, I look to the future with confidence.

E. J. Thompson, Chairman

PROPSIT de-gearing and losses falling

Property Security Investment Trust has continued its progressive de-gearing programme, cutting its pre-tax loss in the six months to the end of September from 1974's £791,000 to £376,000. A same-again interim dividend of 0.7p per share is declared.

The group, which holds a portfolio with some 3.5m sq ft of industrial space, and 570,000 sq ft of offices, charges all its interest and outgoings on development properties directly to revenue account. Property and share dealing results are not, however, included at the half-way stage. But the company reports that this year these figures will not have a material effect on earnings.

Property dividends are continuing and as the bulk of PSIT's portfolio is shown in its books at historically low values, these sales should throw up a substantial surplus over the year. The shares ended 2p to 51p on the news, where the dividend yield is 4.6 per cent.

Centre Hotels on mend

Though the pre-tax profits of Centre Hotels (Cranston) fell from £680,000 to £502,000 in the first half year to October 12, the board says the best part was earned in the closing stages, profitability is recovering. Turnover during the period rose nearly £2m to £8.1m. Margins were still under pressure during the half, but the group had some price increases. The dividend is held at 0.61p but the board will pay the maximum allowed. A one-for-four scrip issue is proposed.

Occidental falters

Occidental Petroleum, the Los Angeles-based oil concern with a 36 per cent stake in the North Sea, forecasts that 1975 net income will decline from £277m (£136m) to between £165m to £170m. The poor results reflected reduced earn-

ings in Libya and write-offs in Venezuela and Nigeria. A write-off account for about £100m. As a result, fourth quarter earnings were charged with about \$19m and income fell 25 per cent to \$56m.

Dorman Smith powers ahead

The pre-tax profits of Dorman Smith, the Preston-based manufacturing electrical engineer, jumped 40 per cent to £1.35m in the six months to last September 30. The turnover of this £4.5m company advanced from £4.5m to £5.8m. The group is paying an interim dividend of 1.30p gross, against 1.21p, allowing for a scrip issue.

Mr T. G. P. Atherton, chairman, says the results are astonishing, considering present economic conditions. He says in the report that though he is to emigrate to the Isle of Man, he will remain chairman of the company. He adds that liquidity has improved considerably, but he will not forecast.

Sena Sugar's plight worsened

There is still no joy for shareholders at Sena Sugar Estates, whose production in Mozambique has been severely upset by political developments in that country.

No interim ordinary dividend for 1975 can be paid, and holders of the 6j per cent preference, whose dividend was passed in October, must continue to wait for their money.

The chairman says that the group will show a loss after depreciation for the year. In 1974, Sena turned in £4.84m pre-tax, boosted by the then soaring sugar prices. Crushing of the 1975 crop is now completed, and the outcome shows a fall from 106,043 to 99,102 tons. The drop is blamed on the poor productivity of the

Carpets I, Wolseley want nearly £6.5m

By Margaret Walters

Carpets International is to raise £3.78m and Wolseley-Hughes £2.63m through rights issues. Carpets International, whose shares moved up 1p to 99p accompanied news of its two for seven issue at 75p with a forecast that pre-tax profits for the year to January 31 would be around £2.4m.

Although that is a sizable drop from last year's figure of £3.6m the forecast indicates that a substantial recovery in profits took place in the second half after the hefty fall in the first six months.

The group, one of the leading carpet manufacturers in the world with overseas and export sales amounting to 30 per cent of turnover last year will use the rights issue money to assist the financing of its investment programme.

In the final six months of last

year the group says that its Australian subsidiary returned to profit, and increased returns are looked for from overseas in the current year although the United Kingdom outlook is unsettled. The dividend receives only a small boost, from 8.37p to 8.47p.

Wolseley-Hughes, in contrast, offers shareholders a 33 per cent boost in the dividend to 9.23p as part of its 2.63p one for four at 103p rights issue.

News of the issue and boost to the dividend sent the shares 8p higher to 134p. The group says that despite reductions in bank borrowings last year outstanding overdrafts have now risen to £2.17m as a result of seasonal and other factors. The group is expecting an upturn in the trade cycle in the second half of 1976, and therefore thinks it prudent to raise future finance now.

Richardsons, Westgarth fails to hold ground

Five months ago Richardson, Westgarth hoped to hold its own. The ship repairing and engineering group reports a big blip in pre-tax profits. The shares shed 21p to 481p on the news.

On turnover up from £16.8m to £18.33m in the six months to September 30, pre-tax profits fell from £1.06m to £745,000, and earnings a share from 4.06p to 2.8p. However, it pays an interim dividend for the shortened nine-months period to December 31 of 1.63p gross against 1.57p.

For the nine months to December 31, the board expects profits lower than the £2.35m for the preceding 12 months.

But it is hoped that earnings will be sufficient for a final dividend to be a substantial proportion of the year's 5.43p gross for the year to March 31, 1976.

Results for the latest six months were badly hit by rough going at the stockholding and merchandising offshoots, but a setback in engineering products was more than offset by engineering services.

Last August, Mr A. D. McN. Boyd, chairman, said that prospects were difficult to assess, thanks partly to the threatened State takeover of George Stark and NEM and Humber Crane Works. Even so, he expected the group to hold its ground.

labour force, and lack of spares and technicians.

A lack of profit has been accompanied by huge increases in required working capital; in addition remittances from Mozambique are restricted.

Leisure Caravan tops £1m after 23 pc rise

Once again, the pre-tax profits of Leisure Caravan Parks have reached record levels. This time they passed the £1m mark for the first time. The eighth months to October 31 saw a rise in profits of 23 per cent to £1.15m and a little profit is usually earned in the closing winter months, profits for the full year will not be "materially different" from this. The interim dividend goes up from 1.90p to 2.57p.

Chase profits fall after loan losses

The profits of Chase Manhattan for the final quarter of 1975 fell from \$62.8m to \$18.9m. This meant a drop for the full year from \$180.8m to \$173.7m. Mr David Rockefeller, chairman, says the group is not satisfied with this, but points out that it is still the third highest profit in the group's history. It was also made in spite of a record provision for loan losses of \$312m to cover net loan write-offs of \$251m.

The final quarter's results are given after restating profits for the first three quarters to reflect accountancy changes.

All Colloids cheer

Industrial chemical maker Allied Colloids saw margins widen in the opening months of the half year to September 30 and now the group reports a useful increase in profits. They rose 28 per cent to £908,000 as turnover climbed from £4.85m to £5.59m. Equally encouraging, sales and profits in the third quarter so far have continued to go up. The group pays only one dividend a year.

Ray of hope at A. Lee

In his last annual statement, Sir G. Wilton Lee, chairman of steel bar, strip and wire maker Arthur Lee, says demand for strip products bot-

tomed out in the first quarter and there are signs of an upturn.

However, demand for wire products is weak. The bars market has now steadied, but at a much lower level than at the start of the year. He says the stockholding division continues to make money, but only the rope division's order book enables the group to look ahead with confidence. The new chairman is Mr H. P. Forster.

Sharp rise seen at Staveley

The economy has shown no significant improvement since the annual statement of Mr H. Moore, the chairman of Staveley Industries, last December, but the first-quarter profits show a "considerable" improvement over this time last year. This is in spite of continued depressed conditions at some divisions—particularly Staveley Limb.

The chairman confirms his earlier prediction that 1976 will be a year of further progress. His December statement added that on a conservative basis, internal budgets indicated that every product group should do better.

Pre-tax profits for the year to September 30 showed a rise from £2.9m to £3.6m.

Crosby House disposal

Crosby House, the London-based holding group, has sold its wholly-owned subsidiary, Travancore Tea Estates, for £390,000 cash. Crosby's board says shareholders will be better served by reducing bank borrowings and investing in other areas with greater potential.

The sale of Travancore, which operates eight estates in southern India, leaves Crosby with no tea planting interests. Five subsidiaries operating in Sri Lanka were nationalized last October, for which the company awaits compensation.

GEC turbine contract

GEC Turbine Generators has signed a £13m contract with Calgary Power, of Alberta, Canada, to supply a 380MW turbine-generator and plant for the next stage of state's Sundance Power Station project.

Emu Wine

Bell might like Emu's cash

A mild flurry of activity and some bemusement has been created by the announcement that an obscure Australian company, Bell Bros Holdings, has built up a 32j per cent stake in the United Kingdom-based Emu Wine Holdings which, of course, triggered a mandatory bid under Takeover Code rules.

Bell Bros is 82 per cent owned by Western Australian Worsteds and Woolton Mills, a holding company and the vehicle of Mr M. R. H. Holmes & Co., a Western Australian entrepreneur. It is in fact the holding company which is launching the bid at 142p a share in cash valuing Emu at £2.13m.

S. C. Warburg, the merchant bank acting for Emu, says that since the original approach from Western Australian Worsteds there have been two "genuine" inquiries from two other parties.

Although United Kingdom-based, Emu has most of its assets in Australia with vineyards around Perth, along with some developing vineyards to the north of the city. Its wines are brand leaders in Western Australia and are also exported to Canada. It also has cash

assets of more than £1m in the United Kingdom.

Mr Holmes & Co. gained control of Western Australian Worsteds in 1970, subsequently turning it into a holding company and embarking on a spending spree which has led to it buying up 10 publicly quoted companies.

In the process it earned a reputation for seeking out asset rich companies. Emu seems to fit into that category.

A representative of Mr Holmes & Co. said Western Australian Worsteds began buying into Emu in 1973, but following the acquisition of Bell in 1974, injected the shares into Bell, whose main activities are transport and distribution. Western Australian now has a large spread of activities including textiles, quarrying and marine equipment.

However, Western Australian's expansion has not been without cost. The balance sheet for the year to the end of last June shows net current liabilities of \$A900,688 while total borrowings stood at more than one and a half times stated total share capital and reserves.

By contrast at the end of December, 1974, Emu had net current assets of £3.43m (222p a share) with some £900,000

Fine finish at Kenning but going tougher now

By Terry Byland

An unexpectedly successful second half at Kenning Motors Group lifted profits for the year to September 30 to a record pre-tax profit of £3.64m. There is also an equally unexpected "maximum increase" in the dividend total to 4.73p a share.

But profits for the first quarter of this year are lower than last time, says the group, and costs continue to rise while new orders are scarce.

Profits benefit this time from the absence of any payment to the pension fund which last year took some £400,000. Turnover for the year showed a rise of 14.3 per cent to £141.7m. Earnings are 6.3p against 5.6p, both fully diluted.

At the interim stage, profits were slightly ahead but the chairman thought that profits would "probably" decline over the full year. Sales of new vehicles played a major role in the second half upswing, with both second hand sales and service earnings boosting the total.

The statement from the board comments on the success of the Leyland Super Deal campaign, and on the buoyancy of the second hand market. Contract hire turned in a record year, with the bulk of the improvement coming in the final quarter when the Price Commission permitted heavier charges.

But Kenning Tyre Services were "substantially" below last year's peak, and higher costs continued to affect Motorway Services although profits were picked up in the half.

Kenning's Rhodesia subsidiaries were better and Kenning's SA reduced its loss from £72,000 to £28,000.

Briefly

STRONG & FISHER
Board forecasts final dividend of 5.68p gross (4.13p) for year to May 31, making year-to-date 8.75p (5.68p). Estimate follows rights issue details.

PETERBOROUGH MOTORS
Turnover £4.4m for six months to end September; pre-tax profit £215,000 (£161,000). Dividend is raised from 1.08p to 1.25p.

THERMOGROWTH TRUST
Pre-tax revenue for year to November 30, £2.36m (£2.34m). Dividend is raised from 5.3p to 5.57p—excluding bonus for this year only of 0.56p.

KENNING ESTATES
Kenning Estates (wholly owned by Kenning Motor Group). Pre-tax profit £1.2m (£1m) on turnover £1.2m (£99,000).

Law Report January 21 1976

Deterrent sentences on youths for bag snatching upheld

Regina v Ford and Others

Before Lord Justice Scarman, Mr Justice Willes and Mr Justice Maise. The language of section 53(2) of the Criminal Justice Act 1961, which provides for a sentence of imprisonment for a child or young person in a proper case.

The Court of Appeal decided when refusing applications for leave to appeal against five-year sentences imposed on three young men for convictions arising out of bag snatching and violence to women in the Brixton and Clapham districts of London. The applications were by Gerald Ford, aged 16, sentenced to detention, and by Patrick Tevor Johnson, aged 17, who was sentenced to imprisonment.

Section 53(2), as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1961, provides: "Where a child or young person is convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for 14 years or more, not being an offence the sentence for which is fixed by law and the court is of opinion that none of the other methods in which the case may legally be dealt with is suitable, the court may sentence the offender to be detained for such period not exceeding the maximum term of imprisonment with which the offence is punishable as may be specified in the sentence."

Mr Christopher Salton for Ford and Mr Ronald Ekins for Johnson and Mr Vernon Johnson did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE SCARMAN said that, in November and December, 1974, and January, 1975, women walking alone in the streets of South London were harassed and suffered actual injury from violence. The object in each case was to steal property that the woman was carrying on her person or in her bag. As a result of police investigation and vigilance a number of young men were brought to the attention of the court, some charged with robbery and others with bag snatching.

The judge imposed deterrent sentences, there being no differentiation between the applicants save that the one was charged to go to prison was sentenced to detention.

It was a very serious matter to impose a deterrent sentence—one intended to be a warning to others—on offenders of the age of the applicants, and it was important to consider the nature of the offences.

The offences were undoubtedly grave. On the date of the last, January 24, 1975, the police found almost immediately after the incident three of the applicants and two other young men in some flats near by, surrounded by bags and property which had been seized from various women.

The robberies and thefts from solitary women on the streets of South London indicated very grave criminal activity. The trial judge had clearly thought it necessary by his sentences to make plain to other young men and boys that such conduct could not be tolerated.

Unfortunately, in making that warning plain, the judge had used language which it would have been better not to have used, it did not follow that he was wrong in taking the view that the sentences he passed had to be a warning to others.

Mr Salton submitted that Ford should have been sent to borstal and not made the subject of a detention order and under section 53(2) it was wrong in principle to send a young person to detention for a period of five years.

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Court of Appeal

for the rehabilitation of the young offender on the other.

The judge found that the applicants were a local gang of young men and boys were putting women in fear and intimidation and a show of violence snatching their property when they were alone. Clearly that conduct had to be seen to merit serious penalties. It had to be stopped and it was necessary to deter others.

It could only be stopped if other young men and boys realized what would happen to them, not to other people older men but to them, if they indulged in similar gang conduct. The judge could not be faulted in having decided that deterrent sentences were needed.

Nevertheless, was five years for Ford too long? The court's duty was to have his welfare in mind. As Lord Widgery said in *R v Storey* (1973) 1 W.L.R. 1045, the Home Secretary could act at any time to consider the case of a young person in detention. All that the court did in imposing five years' detention under section 53 was to fix a maximum term for release on licence at any time and the duty of allocating him to a penal institution appropriate to his needs.

The sentence meant that those best qualified to assess his character and his rehabilitation would make the decision as to when he was to be released. No harm was likely to be done to the applicant from the decision as to when he was to be released.

As to the other applicants, it was indeed a very serious thing to send youngsters to prison for five years. However, a degree of deprivation, frustration, a degree of poverty from time to time leading to street violence and bullying could be dealt with in a way that the circumstances, lead the court into the path of mercy.

A warning to others could be blurred or confused if the sentence was not severe enough to shake public opinion generally and in the case of the world of crime. Notwithstanding that one was bound to sympathize with the young men, sympathy could not be allowed to lead to leniency in any way diminish the deterrent element of the sentences.

Although the Lordships did not relish the prospect of sending young men to remain in prison under a five-year sentence, their duty had to be faced. Because of the nature of the offence, they had to send them to prison for five years.

Solicitor Mr D. D. Phillips, Lambeth: Spellman, Steel & Co.

By November, 1974, Ellis had worked out that they were entitled to £187,004. They issued a writ and applied for judgment under Order 14. Realizing that the amount might arise if they claimed the whole amount, they claimed the £52,437 on the ground that there was no defence to that claim; and they were ready to refer the balance of the amount claimed to be due to arbitration, as provided under the contract.

Master Bickford-Smith gave judgment under Order 14 for £52,437 and granted Waters leave to defend the action as to the balance but that by consent it was to go to arbitration. But on appeal the judge allowed Waters' appeal, set aside the judgment, and referred the whole to arbitration.

A point of procedure had arisen on the appeal because Ellis thought that they could not appeal against the virtually unconditional leave to defend granted by the judge and so asked that the action be stayed on condition that Waters paid the £52,437.

Mr Justice Lawton said that at an appeal was competent from the judge's decision and Order 14. Realizing that the amount might arise if they claimed the whole amount, they claimed the £52,437 on the ground that there was no defence to that claim; and they were ready to refer the balance of the amount claimed to be due to arbitration, as provided under the contract.

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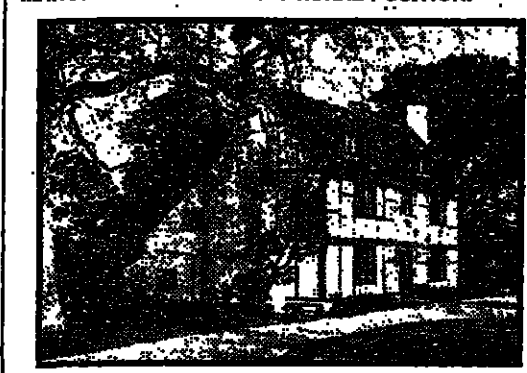
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EATON PLACE, SW1

Additional features: Large reception rooms. Grounds with kitchen garden, paddock and lake.

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GROSVENOR SQ., W.1

Additional features: Large reception rooms. Grounds with kitchen garden, paddock and lake.

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WANDSWORTH COMMON, S.W.12

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KENSINGTON, W.2

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WIMBORNE, Dorset

Additional features: Large reception rooms. Grounds with kitchen garden, paddock and lake.

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WOLDINGHAM

SURREY

Additional features: Large reception rooms. Grounds with kitchen garden, paddock and lake.

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ARUNDEL—centre, enchanting the

Additional features: Large reception rooms. Grounds with kitchen garden, paddock and lake.

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MUSEY BE SOLD. Large detached

Additional features: Large reception rooms. Grounds with kitchen garden, paddock and lake.

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WIMBORNE, Dorset

Additional features: Large reception rooms. Grounds with kitchen garden, paddock and lake.

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WIMBORNE, Dorset

Additional features: Large reception rooms. Grounds with kitchen garden, paddock and lake.

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WIMBORNE, Dorset

Focus on non-secretarial appointments

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES

HOLIDAYS require OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES for the 1976 summer season. We need the services of our clients: a strong personality, an outward-going personality and a high level of diplomacy are essential personal qualities. We are looking for people who are confident, energetic and who have a knowledge of the general public or experience in tourism. Spanish, Italian, Greek, French or Anglo-Croatian.

Details and an application form, please tele 3685 or write to Representatives Department, 101, Greater London House, Hampstead, NW1 7SD.

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IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE A SECRETARY

You do not wish to be a secretary and are looking for something different and can work very hard and will find life amusing.

We could offer you £2,400 now, quickly rising to £4,200 with plenty of scope beyond that.

We will train you very thoroughly.

The job consists of seeing 4 people a day in their offices. We are looking for people who are confident, energetic and who have a knowledge of the general public or experience in tourism.

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THE MARGERY HURST CENTRE

Travel against the rush. Our client has asked us to find a Secretary who wishes to progress to a management position. Someone who is capable of dealing with management and of running a secretarial office. Must be firm but also sympathetic. Age 28/35 with a salary of around £3,500. 4 weeks holiday. Subsidised restaurant. Please telephone:

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COOKABILITY

Plan your own menu! Handle the responsibility for Directors' lunches club if you would like to utilize your experience and enjoy running your own show. Then a 27-30 day salary of £2,400 plus bonus will be yours. Ring Mr. Jackie Mansfield, 821 7401.

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DEATHS

BOWLER—On 21st December, 1975, at home, Harold Bowler, aged 74, of 10, St. John's Road, Woking, Surrey, died peacefully after a long illness.

CAMERON—On 21st January, 1976, at home, John Cameron, aged 74, of 10, St. John's Road, Woking, Surrey, died peacefully after a long illness.

EAGLE—On 21st January, 1976, at home, John Eagle, aged 74, of 10, St. John's Road, Woking, Surrey, died peacefully after a long illness.

HADFIELD—On 21st January, 1976, at home, John Hadfield, aged 74, of 10, St. John's Road, Woking, Surrey, died peacefully after a long illness.

HARTLEY—On 21st January, 1976, at home, John Hartley, aged 74, of 10, St. John's Road, Woking, Surrey, died peacefully after a long illness.

HUMPHREY—On 21st January, 1976, at home, John Humphrey, aged 74, of 10, St. John's Road, Woking, Surrey, died peacefully after a long illness.

JOHNSON—On 21st January, 1976, at home, John Johnson, aged 74, of 10, St. John's Road, Woking, Surrey, died peacefully after a long illness.

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